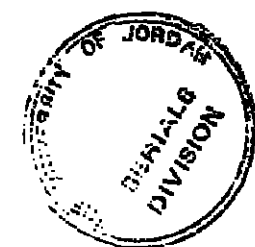


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ARAB TIMES

NO. 775 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 1990/JAMADIUL THANI 27, 1410 AH

NEWSWATCH



Listening

Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi attends the opening of the summit of the Arab Maghreb Union in Tunisia. The Maghreb Union includes Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mandela mediator

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 23. (AP) Jailed black leader Nelson Mandela will be freed and asked to serve as mediator between the government and the outlawed African National Congress, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said today.

IRA killing

BELFAST, Jan 23. (UPI) A police inspector was shot at his home in Northern Ireland in the second killing by Irish Republican Army gunmen this year, a spokesman for the Royal Ulster Constabulary said today.

Pilgrims missing

DHAKA, Bangladesh, Jan 23. (AP) Police launches and divers searched the Sitalkota river today for 40 Muslim pilgrims reported missing since their boat overturned after a collision with a cargo vessel, authorities said.



Winner

Singer Janet Jackson, sister of pop star Michael Jackson, cradles the two awards that she won for her single 'Miss You Much' and 'Rhythm Nation 1814 Album' during the presentation of the 17th annual American Music Awards. (Reuters wirephoto)

Weather

TEMPERATURE will be around normal with light to moderate north-westerly wind.
State of sea: Moderate
High water: 10.30 am, 10.20 pm
Low water: 3.38 am, 3.31 pm
Sunrise: 6.41 am
Sunset: 5.19 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 30°C 86°F
Abu Dhabi: 18°C 64°F
Falkland: 17°C 63°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 6°C 43°F
Abu Dhabi: 8°C 46°F
Falkland: 8°C 47°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 19°C 66°F
Abu Dhabi: 17°C 63°F
Falkland: 16°C 61°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 56 per cent
Falkland: 85 per cent

Kashmir militants call for tax revolt

India, Pakistan trade harsh words

SRINAGAR, Jan 23, (Agencies): Muslim militants in Kashmir today ordered people to stop paying taxes because they said the mountainous northern region was not part of India.

At least four people were shot dead today as Indian forces battled the Muslim revolt in Kashmir. Police said four civilians died in firing during a procession in Srinagar.

In another incident the bodyguard of a UN military observer opened fire on a crowd attacking their vehicle and killed at least six people in Kashmir today, official sources said.

The fatalities brought to at least 50 the number of deaths since weekend rioting by crowds participating in a violent mass movement to sever the largely Muslim northern half of Jammu and Kashmir state from overwhelmingly Hindu India.

Baku remains tense

Troops convoy ambushed

MOSCOW, Jan 23, (Agencies): Militants ambushed an army convoy carrying women and children in Azerbaijan, killing two soldiers and a bystander, official media said today.

Hopes arose briefly yesterday for an end to 10 days of brutal ethnic strife between Armenia and Azerbaijan, when high-ranking Communist Party and government officials from the neighbouring southern republics agreed to withdraw armed bands from border areas and end clashes between thousands of militants.

But Radio Moscow reported today the situation in Baku remained tense, and said the military commander of Azerbaijan's capital vowed his troops were ready to stop "with complete determination" further attacks on Baku residents.

In Moscow, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said "extremists" were harassing the wives and children of military people, stopping their ships as they fled Baku in fear for their lives.

But Sohrab Shamkhalov, the spokesman for the Azerbaijan Popular Front, told a Moscow news conference they were ready to talk to the Kremlin and a Soviet general said compromises had to be found between Moscow and Azerbaijani militants.

Major-General Yevgeny Nechayev told an Interior Ministry news conference in Moscow that he did not consider the front to be among the "individual terrorists" he blamed for much of the violence directed at Soviet troops deployed in the republic.

"My opinion is that we have to launch a dialogue with these organisations," he said. "We have to find compromises, we have to pursue our common affairs."

"The main thing is to learn how to listen to viewpoints you don't like," he added.

Gerasimov said there had been no official reaction to the demand "Maybe they (the Kremlin leaders) are thinking how to defuse the situation," he said.

The Soviet Interior Ministry, in a statement from Baku read on national radio today, said "extremists" had opened fire on soldiers three times overnight.

"As a result of the exchange of shots, three people were killed, including two servicemen," the statement said.

A radio correspondent said the gunmen had ambushed convoys taking demobilised soldiers and their families to safety.

Gerasimov told a news conference he understood four soldiers were killed during the night by sniper fire and a spokesman for the Popular Front said five civilians had died in clashes with soldiers in the past 24 hours.

A large number of Iranian Azeris who crossed into Soviet Azerbaijan over the past few days were trapped there when the Soviet military sealed the border, Tehran residents said today.

Soviet mechanised units sealed the borders with Iran yesterday, after thousands of Soviet Azeris flocked into Iran without travel documents for brief visits.

Members of Iran's Parliament today expressed concern over measures taken against Soviet Muslims in Azerbaijan and warned Moscow against "American conspiracies" seeking to distort events there, Tehran Radio reported.



Up to one million mourners gather in Lenin Square, Baku.

Radicals battle

One Egyptian dies

ASSIUT, Egypt, Jan 23. (AP) A Muslim fundamentalist, among about 350 militants demonstrating outside a mosque, was shot to death during a clash with police, officials said today.

The crowd dispersed late Monday after a fight in which police used tear gas and demonstrators threw stones, said Attorney-General Abdel-Aziz Mokhtar. Eleven people were arrested, mostly students at Assiut University, he said.

Mokhtar said the source of the bullets that killed Abdel-Sabour Hassanain and seriously injured another man with a chest wound was unknown. But police said they did not shoot and that stray bullets fired from within the demonstrators had hit the two men.

Police have rounded up 30 Islamic fundamentalists in Cairo, opposition sources said.

The men were picked up in two Cairo districts on Saturday, the sources said. The accusations against them were not immediately known.

About 200 security troops accompanied Hassanain's body to his hometown near Assiut for burial, apparently to prevent unrest during the funeral.

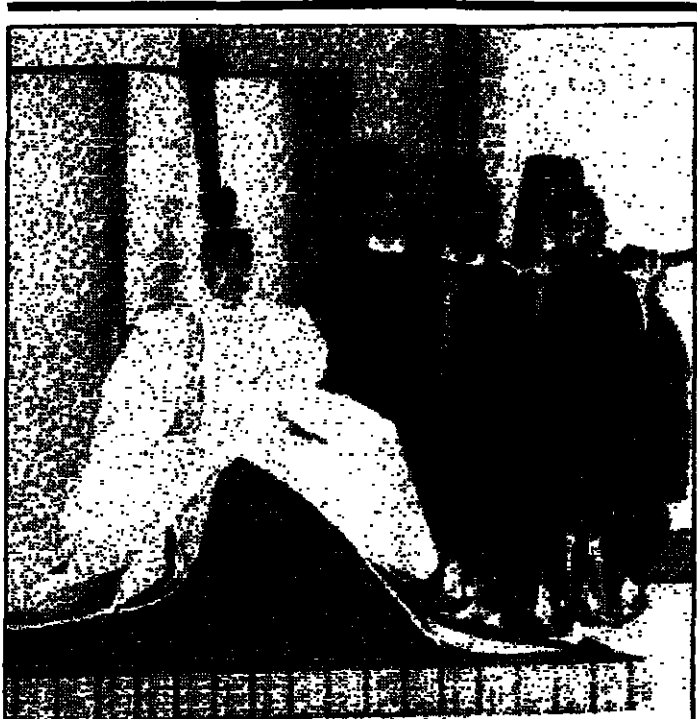
Police said they found iron rods, chains and knives stashed inside the mosque for use as weapons.

The demonstration was to demand that former Interior Minister Zaki Badr be put on trial. Some participants called for him to be executed.

Since Badr was fired on Jan 12 after insulting cabinet colleagues, lawyers, journalists and opposition party members, opposition spokesmen and others have demanded his trial on various charges alleging violation of human rights and other crimes.

Known for often using vile language in public, Badr led a harsh crackdown on religious fundamentalists since he took office in 1986. He equated moderates and extremists, saying in one speech that all should be killed.

About 240 miles (380 km) south of Cairo, the university centre of Assiut has been a hotbed of Muslim fundamentalist and extremist activity since 1981, when militants attempted a coup in its streets immediately after the assassination of president Anwar Sadat. More than 80 people died, mostly policemen.



Akihito ritual

Japanese Emperor Akihito sits at a palace chamber in ancient ceremonial costume as chamberlains stand by his side with a ceremonial sword as part of the rituals performed in the year of the emperor's formal enthronement. (Reuters wirephoto)



Islamabad police arrest a Kashmiri protesting against the killing of Muslim militants in Kashmir.

Moscow agrees Hungary pullout

BUDAPEST, Jan 23. (Reuters):

Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth said today Moscow had agreed to withdraw all Soviet forces stationed in Hungary and this was possible "in the shortest time."

Nemeth told Parliament he had two rounds of negotiations with Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov on the subject over the past six weeks.

"We agreed that the stationing of Soviet troops is the result of fully outdated political and military concepts and there is no political or military reason to have them here," Nemeth said.

More than 50,000 Soviet troops have been in Hungary ever since former prime minister Imre Nagy sought to withdraw his country from the Warsaw Pact during the 1956 uprising. The uprising was quashed by Soviet tanks and Nagy was executed for treason.

Nemeth said the strategic and military geographic position of Hungary, which has no border with a member of the Western Nato alliance, made it possible to withdraw Soviet troops from Hungary "fully and without any risk within the shortest time."

Hungarian Interior Minister Istvan Horvath resigned today over a bugging scandal but accused the opposition of conducting a witch-hunt.

The alliance of Free Democrats, a liberal party led by former dissidents, had published documents showing Horvath's ministry was still spying on the opposition despite government assurances and a new democratic constitution.

Horvath, a member of the Socialist Party founded to succeed the Communist Party last October, admitted he had been wrong not to end "Party-State" practices during Hungary's return to Western-style democracy.

In an angry speech to Parliament Horvath said he and his ministry had done much to ease the democratic transition and accused "certain forces" of orchestrating a dangerous political campaign for electoral advantage. Elections are due in March.

Gorby may fall: warning

BONN, Jan 23. (Reuters): West German Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg was quoted today as saying that the West should be prepared for the possibility of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev being replaced.

"The future is completely open. We must also prepare ourselves mentally for negative developments," he told the newspaper Die Welt.

Stoltenberg said the West had an interest in the success of Gorbachev's reform policies. But near civil war in Transcaucasia and demands for independence in the Baltic states had made it more difficult to assess the Soviet situation.

"So far little attention has been paid to the strong rise of an ethnic-Russian nationalist movement — those forces, in other words, which earlier played a major and often negative role in Russian history," he said.

He said it was possible that Gorbachev would remain in power.

DAY BY DAY

WHEN things begin to get out of control, these are the taken as warnings signs of a dangerous situation.

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Edited by: [Name]

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Troops taken hostage

MANILA, Jan 23, (AP): Heavily armed bandits disarmed five marines and took them hostage in the southern Philippines after the troopers stopped their motor launch filled with smuggled goods, the military said today.

A report from the military's southern command reaching the capital said the incident took place Monday on the island of Siasi off the Sulu peninsula, about 1,010 kms (630 miles) south of Manila.

It said the marines manning a coastal outpost spotted the bandits as they were unloading the goods and arrested the men. But several other armed men surrounded the soldiers and disarmed them.

Coup bid a setback

War on Filipino communists

MANILA, Jan 23, (AP): The war on the communist rebels suffered a setback because of the December coup attempt after a series of military victories against the insurrection, the country's military chief said today.

Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa also said the threat of a new coup will loom over the government as long as dissident military leaders remain at large and their civilian supporters are not indicted.

In a nationally broadcast radio interview, De Villa said that before last month's coup attempt, the Rebel New People's Army had declined from a 1985 high of 25,000 fighters to about 19,000 and that the number of rebel-controlled villages had been reduced by 21 per cent.

"Before the coup, we at the armed forces had a very clear assessment that the communist movement in the Philippines was collapsing," De Villa said.

"But we were disrupted by this coup. We will continue our programme until we see our goal — that within two or three years we can already say that the communist movement would cease to be a great security threat."

De Villa said the guerrillas' inability to step up attacks during the Dec 1-9 coup attempt showed their disarray. He said the communists' image had been tarnished by the collapse of Marxist governments in Eastern Europe.

Commenting on the coup attempt, De Villa said renegade leaders of the recent uprising may be planning a new attempt to topple President Corason Aquino but that it would fail.

He said six members of the "core group" that planned and directed the December mutiny remain at large while two have been arrested.

It was the sixth and bloodiest attempt to oust Mrs. Aquino, who was installed in the 1986 civilian-military revolt that deposed the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

At least 113 people were killed and more than 500 were injured.

"Based on our objective analysis, as long as that core group... is at large, they would continue to plan and recruit ambitious men," De Villa said.

He said the six may be meeting in secret with civilian financiers to launch a seventh coup attempt against Mrs. Aquino.

"As long as we do not bring to courts the civilian component, their supporters, they will continue to plan (against the government) and to put up alliances," De Villa said.

About 50 civilians, many of them former officers, are under investigation pending possible rebellion charges in connection with the failed coup. So far, none has been indicted.

They include Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who was fired as defence minister in November 1986 after his followers launched an unsuccessful coup. Enrile denies the allegation.

Mrs. Aquino also has named Vice President Salvador Laurel and her estrained cousin Eduardo Cojuangco as having possible links to the plotters. Laurel also denies the allegation.

Marcoses appeal against ruling

\$260m Swiss award

ZURICH, Jan 23 (Reuters): The family of former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos has appealed against a Zurich court ruling awarding the Philippines 400 million Swiss francs (\$260 million) hidden in Switzerland by Marcos.

Lawyer Bruno de Preux said on Monday the Philippines could not claim the money until one of its own courts ruled that the Marcoses or their associates had committed an offence.

"There have been no criminal proceedings in the Philippines so how can they claim the money?" he said.

Zurich prosecutor Peter Cosanday, who ordered the funds to be released earlier this month, said the Philippines must show that the money had been

obtained illegally. If the appeal fails, De Preux said the Marcoses would take the case to the Supreme Court, a method they have used to block \$110 million released by courts in Geneva and Fribourg.

The Philippines, which accuses the Marcoses of "plunder of the nation's wealth," is seeking \$100 billion in damages from them and their associates.

Estimates of the wealth they have hidden in Switzerland range up to \$600 million. Manila has been trying to repatriate the money for almost four years.

Marcos and his wife Imelda went into exile in Hawaii when he was forced out of office by a popular uprising in February 1986 after 20 years in power. He died last September.



Manila fire kills 1

Fire swept through a coast guard supply depot in Manila Tuesday, triggering explosions which killed one person and injured 28 others, officials said.

The coast guard and arson investigators estimated damage at 5 million pesos (\$222,700).

Coast guard spokesman Lt Ronnie Bacolod said the fire was apparently caused by faulty wiring on the roof of the coast guard's investigation service office.

Bacolod said petty officer 3rd class Felipe Mendoza, who was trying to save weapons from his office, died in the explosion and 28 others were wounded. Picture shows rescuers carrying Mendoza's body. (Reuters wirephoto)

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Kuwait International Automobile Club (KT) has the pleasure to announce that the entries are open till MONDAY 29/01/1990 for the 2nd round of the Kuwait National 4 x 4 Championship.

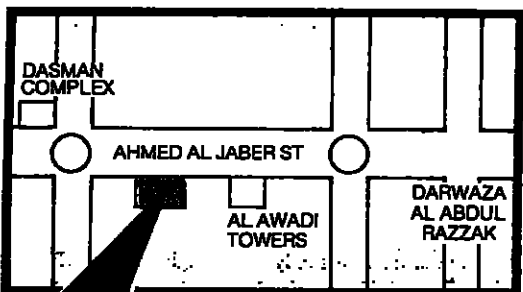
The Rally will start on Friday, 2nd February 1990, at 08:30 a.m. from Kuwait International Hotel. The Rally will be held in Maghwa area. First stage is 8 km, second stage 3.5 km. Total stages 12. All competitors should contact The Motor Sports Division to complete their entry forms. We would like to invite all the Marshalls to contact the Club for the final preparations. The meeting will be on Tuesday 30/01/1990 at 18:30 p.m.



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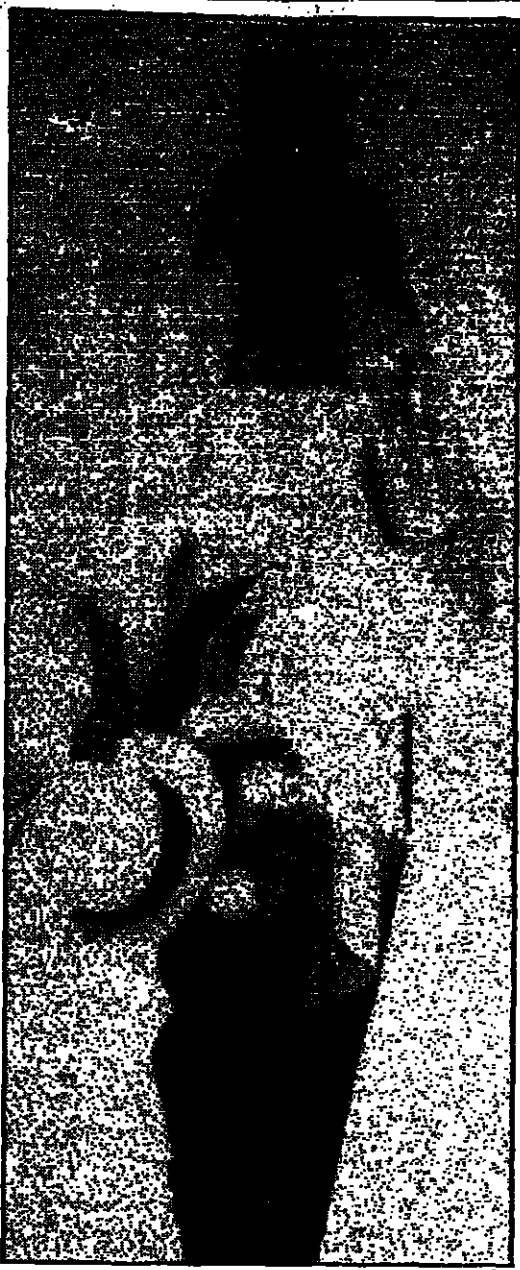
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Spring-summer collection

Models for Jean-Louis Sherrer (right) and Christian Dior (left) display the outfits during 1990 spring-summer high fashion collection in Paris yesterday. Model Jean-Louis presents rust-coloured brocade bustier with silk chiffon harem



pants while model for Christian Dior wears a white organza top and full-sleeved jacket with high waisted black silk pants. (Reuters wirephoto)

'A midsummer nights' dream Dior spring collection

PARIS, Jan 23, (AP): Haute couture was a veritable midsummer night's dream at yesterday's shows. Very short, often flirty styles for summer never looked more expensive and yet feathery-light.

The clothes, costing many thousands of dollars per outfit, are mainly for show of course. Only about 2,000 women regularly buy couture, which is meant to power the houses' other activities — from accessories to perfumes.

Dior's show by Gianfranco Ferré was 14-K gold — a suite of expensive clothes that ended up with mounds of gold, ochre and saffron iridescent taffetas, satin and sparkling sequins on lace.

The Italian designer, hired last year by financier Bernard Arnault to bring the celebrated couture house out of the doldrums, reworked some of his strong themes. These included huge organza bows and bold silk-flower corsage effects. The clothes were pretty, but whether their impact will make Dior top money-earning couture house in the world is still debatable.

Ferré's mood was romantic but mainly in a low key. The day clothes worn with amusing high-crowned smokestack or boater hats turned up in black and white or shades of silvery gray in fitted pin-striped suits with deep décolletés, insets and tucked-in swaths of white organza, a ferré signature touch.

He is still using organza prodigiously and has already been copied all over the place in the cloud-like puffy blouses and enormous bows at waist or neck.

Lots of trousers here should please high-styled dressers who can actually afford a couture outfit. Impeccable cuffed grey charcoal lean pants topped by a fabulous white organza flyaway jacket and strapless bustier would look at home anywhere from Palm Beach to Paris.

The wicker-chair sparkly embroidery on white jackets over simple black skirts are also great choices for the moneyed set.

Except for violet, lilac, a flash of red and all that gold ferré hardly varied his colour palette. But the cats were right on target, especially when he draped a sexy sheath with a gold satin-lined long stole.

Erik Mortensen at Balmain proved once again that he's a great couturier. He produced a teaser of a sexy collection that offered plenty of choice besides bare skin in skirts slashed to the hip or mere slips of

handkerchief chiffons adorning nearly-nude bodies.

His day clothes were striking in belted ivory white suits with sleeveless easy-over-jackets in contrasting coral, saffron or green soft wool.

The clothes looked both contemporary and clever, some of the false cutaway suits turning into short shifts in back. Other daytime ideas included split paneled skirts, crepe chiffons with giant polka dots under enormous halo circle hats.

But from silky bias-cut paneled dresses to jeweled chiffons and strapless dresses topped with clouds of tulle as stoles, mortensen won on all fronts day to evening in a beautifully edited show that was exciting from start to finish.

Pierre Cardin's midsummer night's dream went on until his audience nearly fell asleep.

Talented Cardin still knows how to cut and give a filip to modern styles. But the impact was watered down by too much of a good thing. Among the memorable newer looks were his billowy-skirted and egg-shaped dressy short models in the softest pastel hues — lots of violet, aqua and linden or sea green.

Many of the pretty new outfits were presented by two of his favourite new mannequins brought in from the USSR, where he has been manufacturing for two years to pep up the Soviet fashion scene.



Italian designer Gianfranco Ferré surrounded by models, responds to spectators applause at the end of the Christian Dior 1990 spring-summer haute couture show in Paris yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Yard scraps height limit

LONDON, Jan 23, (Reuters): Police in London no longer have to walk tall.

In a drive to recruit officers from ethnic minorities, Scotland Yard headquarters said yesterday it was scrapping height requirements for the blue-helmeted London bobby.

Senior officers said many Asians were being kept off the force by rules requiring male recruits to top five feet, eight inches (1.70 m) and women to be at least five feet, four inches (1.60 m) tall.

Commercial use Marijuana activists plea

PORTLAND, Oregon, Jan 23, (UPI): Some Oregon marijuana activists think pot farmers should be allowed to grow their crops in peace, and sell them legally to make such things as rope and dioxin free, white paper.

The suggestion was made at a marijuana activists regional conference this weekend at Lewis and Clark College in Portland.

Several speakers said marijuana, also known as hemp, can be used to produce a linen-like fibre for fabric and paper

pulp. Paul Stanford, of Portland, who imports hemp products from China, said Chinese hemp paper last four to five times longer than comparable paper made from wood pulp.

Jim Evans of Ashland said hemp is rich in cellulose and can be used to make white paper with a hydrogen peroxide process rather than with chlorine bleaching used in US paper mills. The chlorine process leaves traces of dioxin, a cancer-causing chemical which pulp mills release in waste discharges.

US court finds student guilty of tampering with computer

SYRACUSE, New York, Jan 23, (AP): A jury last night found a suspended graduate student guilty of leashing a rogue programme that crippled a nationwide network of thousands of computers.

Robert T. Morris, 24, faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. He is the first person brought to trial under a 1986 federal computer fraud and abuse law that makes it a felony to break into a federal computer network and prevent authorised use of the system.

Morris is the son of one of the top computer security experts for the US National Security Agency, the super-secret government organisation that gathers electronic intelligence around the world.

Defence lawyer Thomas Giudoboni contended at the trial that Morris did not intend to cause permanent damage to any computer files when he unleashed the worm.

"There was no work lost, work was delayed. That's the bottom line," Giudoboni said.

He said that once Morris realised the worm had gone berserk, he took steps to try to stop it. When that failed, Giudoboni said Morris had friends send out a message on an electronic bulletin board with instructions how to defeat the worm.

Ellen Meltzer, a prosecutor for the US Justice Department, said Morris deliberately stole computer passwords from hundreds of people so the worm could break into as many computers as possible.

I'm with you, Bush assures the rally

WASHINGTON, Jan 23, (AP): President George Bush assured tens of thousands of anti-abortion demonstrators yesterday on the 17th anniversary of a US Supreme Court ruling that legalised abortion that "this president stands with you."

Bush, declaring his own "deep conviction" against the Roe vs Wade court ruling that legalised abortions, spoke for just 90 seconds by telephone hookup to a midday crowd of marchers who gathered at the ellipse across the White House.

"Before you begin the march, I want to take a minute to share my deep personal concern about abortion on demand, which I oppose," Bush told demonstrators, saying the anti-abortion movement reminds Americans "of the self-evident moral superiority of adoption over abortion."

"Let me assure that this president stands with you on this issue of life," he said.

Advocates of legal abortion, meanwhile, celebrated the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision at a luncheon fundraiser and in an earlier ceremony on the mall remembering women who died as a result of illegal abortions.

"The public is on our side," said Republican Sen. Robert Packwood, a supporter of legal abortions. "It will be a cutting edge issue in this year's elections."

The anti-abortion demonstrators marched up Pennsylvania Avenue to the US Capitol and Supreme Court after hearing Bush, some members of Congress and other speakers. The US park police estimated the crowd at 75,000; the annual march drew an estimated 67,000 people last year.

Similar anti-abortion rallies and pro-choice demonstrations were held around the country yesterday.

"What we're going to do is show to America that pro-life America is here, awake, that we will not have the women's libbers' death marches in our country," said Nellie Gray, president of the March for Life.

This year's anti-abortion march took on added intensity, coming amid the fresh political battles over abortion triggered by a Supreme Court decision last summer that gave states new authority to impose some limits on abortion rights.

WASHINGTON: Actor-strongman Arnold Schwarzenegger came to the White House on Monday and emerged in a new role: chairman of the president's council on physical fitness and sports.

The broad-shouldered Austrian-born performer, after getting marching orders from President George Bush in the oval office, said his aim is to get all Americans, from the very young to the very old, to exercise regularly.

"President Bush is very much committed not only to have this kinder and gentler nation, but also a very fit nation," said Schwarzenegger.

The onetime Mr Universe said of the 66-year-old president: "He's 100 per cent behind physical fitness. He's in tremendous shape himself."

Schwarzenegger, 42, who parlayed his body-building skills into a Hollywood career, has starred in such films as *The Terminator* and *Conan the Barbarian*. He made numerous appearances for Bush in 1988 at campaign rallies, where Bush delighted in introducing him as *Conan the Republican*. (AP)

PHILADELPHIA: Even if he's not revealing the plot of *Rocky V*, Sylvester Stallone is picking up where he left off in his last sequel to his movie about a Philadelphia boxer.

Stallone, whose *Rocky Balboa* character battled a Soviet boxer in *Rocky IV*, walked with his 13-year-old son down the steps of an Aeroflot jet at Philadelphia International airport Monday and stopped to talk to the Soviet captain.

Stallone, son Sage and Capt Nikolai Smasov were on the set Monday for filming in the final episode in the *Rocky* saga. His son will play Rocky Jr.

The *Hyundai* 86, the first Soviet aircraft to be used in the production of an American film, arrived Sunday night for filming Monday with a 13-member Soviet crew.

"It's amazing because six months ago this was totally impossible. It's truly astounding," Stallone said, referring to changes in US-Soviet relations.

The use of the Soviet airliner and crew picks up on the theme of "Rocky IV," which Stallone said was misunderstood by some moviegoers.

"The real story at the end of *Rocky IV* was we can all get along," Stallone said. The movie ended with Rocky's victory over a Russian boxer named Drago.

Filming of "Rocky V" began a week ago in Philadelphia, the site of the original "Rocky," winner of the 1976 Academy Award for best picture in which an unknown club fighter gets a million-to-one shot at the title. Rocky loses, but proves himself just the same and comes back in the sequel for a rematch.

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Rooftop shark

The future of Oxford's rooftop shark was being decided by a Crown court jury in Oxford. The city council is prosecuting William Heine over his alleged failure to comply with planning laws by not removing the 25-foot (7.5 m) high fiberglass sculpture from the roof of his house. (Reuters wirephoto)

LYNDHURST, New Jersey: Diners looking for an out-of-the-ordinary eating experience will find knits on horseback and trumpeting footmen — but no silverware — at a soon-to-open restaurant.

The restaurant, *Medieval Times*, is a replica of an 11th-century European fortress. It is scheduled to open in mid-February, and belongs to a restaurant company of the same name that offers patrons a taste of the middle ages.

Visitors will see jousting matches, sword fights, tournament games. Trumpeters herald visitors into the arena, which seats about 1,200. While "serfs" and "wenches" in period costumes offer guests soup, chicken, spare ribs, potatoes and the "king's brew," eight performers on horseback weave around the sandy carousel floor.

Music awards Milli Vanilli lift 3 trophies

LOS ANGELES, Jan 23, (AP): Milli Vanilli, an international duo that blends pop and reggae led the 17th annual American Music Awards with three trophies last night as sickly produced dance music took top categories.

The pair won favourite new artist in the pop-rock and soul-rhythm and blues categories and the award for favourite pop-rock single with their "Girl You Know It's True."

"We want to say that this is a symbol of freedom and peace in the world and for East and West Germany," Rob Pilatus, a member of the duo and a native West German, said backstage.

Janet Jackson, Randy Travis, M.C. Hammer, and New Kids On The Block all were double winners.

Miss Jackson, sister of pop superstar Michael Jackson, won for her "Miss You Much" single in both the dance and soul-rhythm and blues categories.

"Oh, I Love You, Too," Miss Jackson said to the cheering audience filling an auditorium during the three-hour televised event.

Young Bop sensation Kids on the Block won the favourite pop-rock album trophy for their "Hangin' Tough" album the also won favourite pop-rock group.

Travis won for favourite country album, "Old 96-01," and country single "Deeper than the Holler." "Thanks for all the support over the past few years," said Travis, who is regarded as one of the newer talents credited with reviving interest in country music.

"Appetite For Destruction" gave Guns n' Roses the heavy metal album award. The group also took favourite artist in the heavy metal column.

Bank members W. Axl Rose and Slash came onstage and draped themselves over the speaker's stand to accept their second award. They were quickly cut off after making unintelligible remarks. Backstage, the two drank wine.

M.C. Hammer took the favourite rap album with "Let's Get It Started." He also won favourite rap artist.

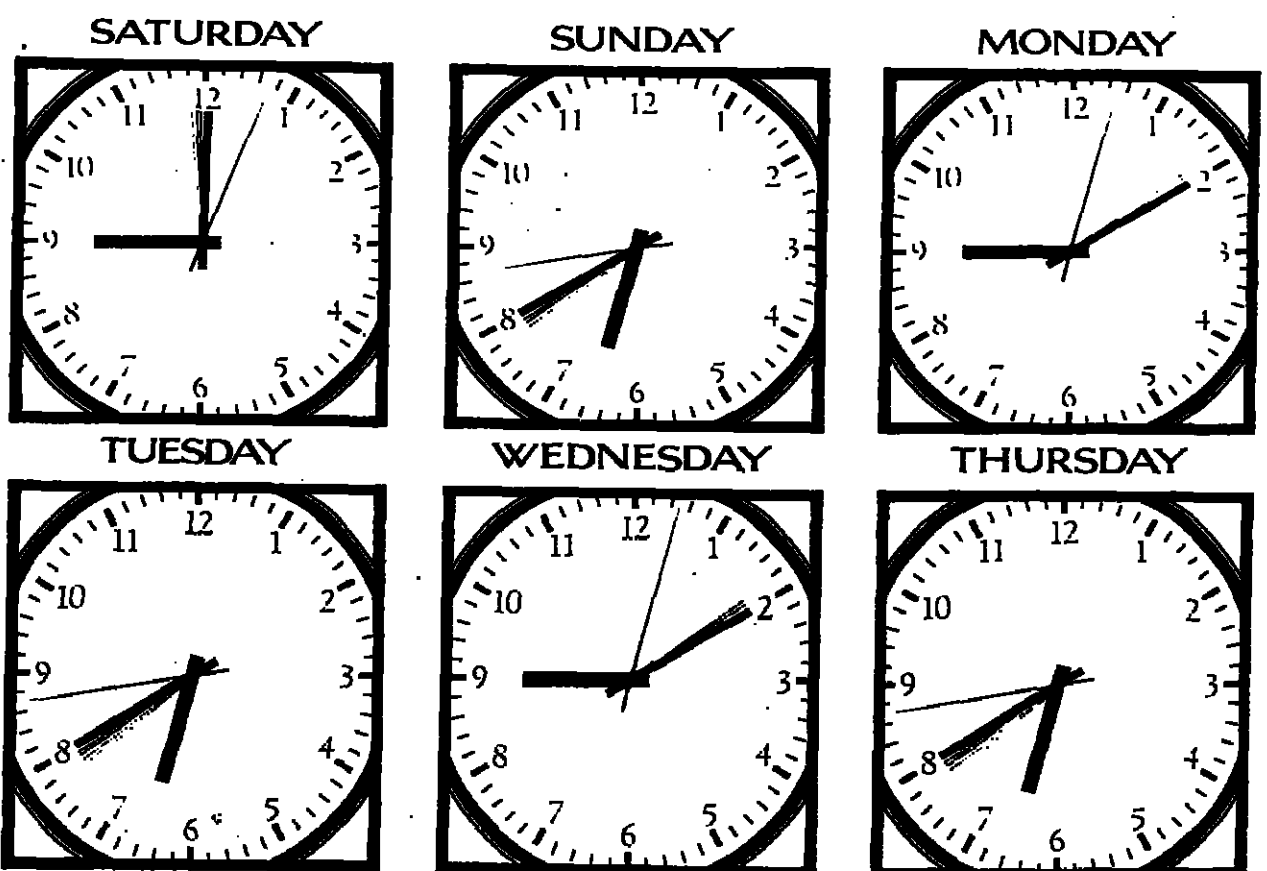
Dance queen Paul Abdul, the energetic former professional basketball cheer leader for the Los Angeles Lakers, won favourite pop-rock female vocalist and favourite dance artist.

Up against the fancy footwork of De La Soul and equally fleet-footed Soul II Soul, the less flashy tone Loc still earned the favourite new dance artist title.

Young M.C. claimed the favourite new rap artist award.

There were also special non-competitive awards for distinguished careers. Prince was given a special achievement award for influencing "the look and sounds of the 1980s" through writing, performing, recording and movies.

NOW DUBAI SIX TIMES A WEEK



EVEN TIME FLIES ON EMIRATES

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Emirates

Haiti defends strong measure

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti, Jan. 23 (AP)—Haiti's military government, acknowledging international criticism of its expulsions of political leaders, said restrictions on civil liberties were necessary to maintain order.

In Washington, Haiti's ambassador to the United States, Pierre Francois Benoit, a proponent of democratic reforms, resigned yesterday in protest against the "repeated violations of human rights" by his nation's leadership.

He told a news conference that the 16-month-old administration of Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril, while calling itself provisional, "in my view, is becoming permanent."

Avril's government declared a 30-day state of siege and began expelling prominent political leaders on Saturday, one day after gunmen killed army Col. Andre Neptune, his wife and their housemaid.

Dozens of government critics also were reported arrested in the crackdown, but most were thought to have been released.

Avril, who has pledged to turn over power to a civilian president in elections this October, said curbs on civil liberties were necessary "to protect democratic accomplishments against terrorism."

Yesterday state-run television and radio reported international condemnation of the government's action, but said the state of siege and expulsions were due to "destabilizing activities" by the opposition.

Deplores
The US state department said it "deplores the actions taken by the government of Haiti." France and Canada issued similar protests.

Yesterday, police raided three radio stations in the northern port of Cap-Haitien that broadcast news of the arrests, beatings and expulsions.

An employee of radio Citadelle, said armed plainclothes officers burst into the station soon but that news staff had already fled and no one was arrested.

Police carried out similar raids during newscasts at Radio Voix Du Nord (Voice of the North) and Radio Cap-Haitien, said the employee, speaking on condition of anonymity. All three stations are privately owned.

Of the six main radio stations in Port-Au-Prince, only the Roman Catholic Radio Soleil, the Protestant Radio Lumiere and the government-run National Radio broadcast news yesterday. Radio is the main source of news in Haiti.

Information Minister Rose Marie Nazon met with the Haitian Association of Journalists and reportedly assured the group that the government would allow newscasts as long as they were "objective." But the government has issued no specific press guidelines.

Under its state of siege, the government suspended a law forbidding forced exile and renewed an entry visa for Haitians returning from abroad.

The government has acknowledged the expulsions of three prominent activists — Dr. Louis Roy, principal author of the 1987 constitution; Conservative leader Hubert de Ronceray; and Max Bouquillon, deputy leader of the Communist Party — although it is believed that at least seven leading politicians have been, or soon will be, expelled.

Despite international condemnation, Haiti's military government yesterday arrested two more politicians and sent troops to hunt down others in a crackdown on the opposition. Opposition sources said authorities grabbed two more prominent politicians yesterday — Frank Senat and Joseph Manigal, leaders of two leftist coalitions.

Pentagon alarm over memoirs

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23 (Kuna). The Pentagon yesterday was reported deeply worried about security leaks concerning Libya and Lebanon in the memoirs of former Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger.

Some said that was ironic since Weinberger was intensely security conscious while Pentagon chief in the 1980s.

A senior official told the Washington Post alarms are going off now over the manuscript form of Weinberger's book, "Fighting for Peace."

Basically, security oversight officials say Weinberger leaked highly-classified details of the US intervention in Lebanon in 1982, the Iran-Contra affair of 1985-1986 and President Reagan's confrontation with Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi.

Moreover, there were "serious concerns" on the Pentagon's part about revelations regarding the inner workings of the White House's National Security Council (NSC), an official said.

Cartel may try to kill Bush

US secret service investigating reports: CBS

NEW YORK, Jan. 23 (Reuters). US security agents are concerned that a cocaine cartel could try to kill President George Bush, possibly by shooting down his plane, when he goes to an anti-drugs summit in Colombia next month. US television reported yesterday.

"The secret service is investigating a growing number of intelligence reports that members of the drug cartel will attempt to assassinate President Bush," CBS News said.

"Reports that the cartel has obtained surface-to-air missiles are being taken seriously," it added. The report referred specifically to SA-7 shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, which the drug cartel could use to try to shoot down air force one when Bush flies to Cartagena for the summit with the leaders of Colombia, Bolivia and Peru.

It said the jet was fitted with electronic defenses to fool the missiles but that "concerns are growing about the possible danger and 'the secret service is considering other ways of bringing the president into Colombia'."

Bush has declared he intends to attend the summit. In Washington a secret service spokesman told

Reuters it was standard procedure to consider all possible modes of transport whenever the president travelled, at home or abroad.

"Everything is considered every place he goes," he said. "But we haven't come up with anything that could cause us to change our methods or procedures or posture on the whole trip."

The CBS report also cited officials' concerns about other security problems, violence and disruption at the summit.

Almost 200 people have been killed and 1,000 injured in bombings and other attacks since Colombian President Virgilio Barco declared war on the cocaine cartels last August.

The son of Barco's closest aide said drug lords who had held him captive for a month freed him on Monday to help end the country's drug war.

Alvaro Diego Montoya Escobar said in a statement that he was freed at 3 am in Bogota by captors who identified themselves as the Extraditables, a group identified with leaders of the powerful Medellin cocaine cartel.

"I was informed that they belonged to the Extraditables group, and the reason they freed me was to contribute to the objective of achieving

peace in Colombia," Montoya Escobar's statement said. Montoya Escobar, an insurance broker, said he was kidnapped in Bogota on Dec. 19.

He was the fifth hostage that the Extraditables — so-named because they are sought for trial in the United States — apparently have freed since they offered last Wednesday to end cocaine exports, lay down arms and free their captives if given unspecified "constitutional and legal guarantees."

The government said Montoya Escobar — son of German Montoya, the president's secretary general — had been freed but it gave no details on who had been holding him.

Justice Minister Roberto Salazar, asked what agreement the government had reached to free Montoya Escobar, told reporters: "The government had not come to any agreement."

Hours after Montoya Escobar's release, a caller saying he represented the Extraditables told a Medellin radio station that the group had a message for the government.

"We Extraditables have complied, as has been asked," the caller said. "Now the government should comply." It was not clear with what the government was being asked to comply.



Oval Office redecoration

A \$82,470 redecoration of the Oval Office including a new grey-blue carpet featuring the presidential seal, new sofas and draperies has been completed, a White House official said Monday.

The oval rug — 30 feet, 10 inches long (9.45 m) and 23 feet 5 inches (7.12 m) wide — was designed by Mark Hampton and the staff of Hokanson Inc., of Houston, Texas, presidential Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said in a statement.

The presidential seal in the carpet is centered and is delineated in gold on an ivory background.

The redecoration was paid for with funds contributed by private donors and was handled by the White House Historical Association.

The new draperies are identical in design to the 15-year-old draperies that were replaced. A pair of new cream-colored sofas has been added to the room, and between them is a new mahogany coffee table. Other chairs in the room were repolished in a variety of colors complementing the new carpet.

A view of the Oval Office after the redecoration, Jan. 22 (Reuters wirephoto)

Barry in Florida for drink remedy

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23 (AP)—Mayor Marion Barry, facing a cocaine possession charge, flew to Florida for treatment Monday while political speculation intensified back home concerning a possible city hall campaign by Jesse Jackson.

Barry's spokeswoman, Larma Rackley, said the mayor had checked into a centre in West Palm Beach, Florida, to be treated for alcoholism. She said the day before that details about his health would be kept private but "the most serious problem is alcoholism."

With Barry gone from city hall for at least 30 days, talk and maneuvering in connection with the November election picked up speed.

A Jackson associate said of the civil rights leader and former Democratic presidential candidate who moved to Washington last year, "I know he's getting a lot of pressure to run. I don't know if he's going to."

Speaking only on condition of anonymity, the source said "a lot of the pressure is coming from Marion's people."

Barry left Washington without speaking to reporters, but several hours later, Ms. Rackley said the mayor had entered the Hazelden Treatment Centre in Florida.

The mayor was arrested Thursday night and charged with possession of crack cocaine. He said on Sunday he would take steps to "heal my body, mind and soul." Barry, who did not specifically refer to a drug or alcohol problem in his Sunday remarks, left his home at dawn Monday accompanied by his wife Effi.

Barry's plans to announce his candidacy Sunday for a fourth term as mayor of the nation's capital were sharply cancelled after his arrest Thursday night on a misdemeanor cocaine possession charge. He appeared briefly in court Friday and was ordered to undergo weekly drug testing.

As Barry mullied his future over the weekend, some of his closest political advisers and former assistants were meeting at the home of ex-city administrator Elijah Rogers to organize plans to get Jackson in the mayor's race.

Jackson's move to Washington last April fanned rumors that he would make a bid for the mayor's chair. But he has repeatedly said he would never run against Barry, a friend and former civil rights colleague.

Early surveys of public sentiment in the mayor's race gave Jackson a wide lead over all other potential contenders, including Barry.

Rep. Richardson, president of the local chapter of the hotel and restaurant workers AFL-CIO, said he has had discussions with a variety of community activists and organizers about mounting a draft-Jackson campaign.

Eric Easter, Jackson's press secretary, said the former Democratic presidential hopeful has been sick in bed since returning to the nation's capital on Saturday and has met with no one regarding a mayoral draft campaign.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bush's daughter files for divorce: Dorothy Bush Leblond, daughter of President George Bush, says "irreconcilable marital differences" compelled her to file for divorce from her husband of seven years, William H. Leblond.

A divorce petition filed Monday at Cumberland county superior court said "the marriage has broken down."

The Leblonds were married in Kennebunkport, Sept. 1, 1982 and resided in Cape Elizabeth from most of their marriage. They separated last August.

Mrs. Leblond, 30, is seeking shared parental rights for their two children, Samuel, 5, and Nancy, 3. (AP)

Bloch won't be prosecuted: The US government has decided not to try to prosecute Felix Bloch, the diplomat accused of spying for the Soviet Union while working in Austria, a US television network reported Monday night.

The government declined to confirm the report. Bloch was put under intensive FBI surveillance last year after it was learned that he had been videotaped passing a suitcase to a Soviet agent in Paris.

Bloch had been the No. 2 official of the US embassy in Vienna for much of President Ronald Reagan's eight years in office, 1980 to 1988.

Although he was placed on administrative leave last June, Bloch continued to draw his \$80,000 annual salary. (AP)

FBI search: FBI agents and an army bomb squad searched a warehouse, a salvage business and a home Monday in Enterprise, Alabama, in the investigation of mail bomb slayings of a judge in Birmingham and a civil rights lawyer in Georgia.

No arrests were made, and the FBI would not disclose the arrests of the searches, the agency said in a statement issued in Washington.

FBI agents were seen executing a search warrant at one warehouse, and a bomb squad from nearby Fort Rucker Army Base went to a second site. The FBI said agents searched a house in New Brockton and a salvage and abandoned warehouse in Enterprise. (AP)

Larouche convictions upheld: A three-judge panel of the 4th US circuit court of appeals upheld the convictions of Lyndon Larouche and six of his followers Monday, rejecting arguments that their trial was unfair.

Larouche's appeal was argued by former US attorney-general Ramsey Clark, who told the panel he had been harassed by the groups aligned with the political extremist in the past, but that everyone deserves a fair trial.

Clark, aided by more than 844 friend-of-the-court briefs from around the world, argued that Larouche and his followers did not have time to prepare an adequate defence, that the jury was empaneled too hastily and that Larouche was unfairly tried with the other defendants. (UPI)

Photographer, Vishniac dies: Roman Vishniac, a photographer who spent much of the

1930s photographing pre-holocaust Jewish life in Eastern Europe, died on Monday at his home in New York. He was 92.

"He used to say he took Hitler seriously and therefore he took the pictures," said a relative, Jesse Cherry. "Everything he photographed was subsequently destroyed."

Born in Pavlovsk, Russia, on Aug. 18, 1897, Vishniac came to the United States in 1940.

He was a medical science photographer in Berlin from 1920 to 1939 and had documented Jewish life in Germany with photographs from 1935 to 1939.

His works are included in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Smithsonian Institute and the Library of Congress in Washington and the Jewish Museum in New York.

His works are published in several books, including "A Vanished World," which he wrote in 1939. Funeral arrangements were incomplete. (AP)

Witness identifies Gotti: A mob informer Monday identified John Gotti as "the boss" of the Gambino crime family and said the reputed godfather once told another Mafia don to leave him alone.



Trying to revive

Firefighters Edward Morrissey (left) and Edmund Friel (right) try to revive 20-month-old Bailey Perelle, who was found in a burning apartment building Jan. 22, during a three-alarm blaze. Fire officials said the fire was caused by a youngster playing with matches. The infant died. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bank's plea bargain raises questions about money-laundering probe in US

MIAMI, Florida, Jan. 23 (AP). The US government's acceptance of a plea bargain by subsidiaries of the world's seventh-largest private bank for laundering millions in drug money is being called a joke by some critics.

But other observers say the deal with the Bank of Commerce and Credit International (BCCI) may be justified if it helps win a conviction against deposed Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega.

"It seems like a light hit, but it depends on what the government is going to get out of them. It could be they are sitting on a wealth of information," said

Robert Powis, a former US treasury official.

The divisions of the Luxembourg-based bank pleaded guilty last Tuesday to about 30 charges, including tax fraud, money laundering and failing to report currency transactions of more than \$10,000.

Sen. Howard Metzenbaum said he was seeking an explanation about the arrangement from the justice department and may initiate a congressional investigation.

"I don't believe that the entire criminal justice system in America, nor all of our efforts to eliminate drugs in America, revolves just around Noriega,"

Metzenbaum said.

The subsidiaries of BCCI, which has assets of about \$20 billion, admitted in Tampa federal court to laundering \$14 million in drug profits for traffickers tied to Noriega.

Originally charged with laundering \$32 million in cocaine profits, the bank agreed to forfeit only the \$14 million that the US government was able to freeze during its "Operation C-Case" investigation that began in 1986.

Fines, which could have reached \$45 million, were suspended. The bank also was placed on five years of

Noriega aides face the music

Criminal charges against 14 officers

PANAMA CITY, Jan. 23 (Agencies). Fourteen military officers under ousted dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega have been charged with crimes, and a top civilian supporter is under arrest for investigation of homicide, officials announced.

Attorneys for the detained men tried to file writs to obtain their release Monday. Relatives of the detainees, waiting outside the Modelo prison to visit, complained that the government was acting like the Noriega administration, which was ousted by the Dec. 20 US invasion.

"It is an outrage," said Juan Materno Vazquez, a lawyer who is defending some of the prisoners. "Their human and civil rights have been violated by the government, which first detains them and then invites charges and complaints against them."

"They will have all the rights guaranteed by law," a spokeswoman at the attorney-general's office said. Former ruling party legislator and close Noriega associate Rigoberto Paredes led the list of 29 prisoners brought from the US army base at Fort Clayton to Panama's Modelo jail late Sunday.

Ortega sees plot to kill him

US, Contras blamed

MANAGUA, Jan. 23 (UPI). President Daniel Ortega yesterday accused the US government and US-backed Contra rebels of plotting to assassinate him but said he will continue his campaign for next month's national elections.

Speaking at the last session of the national assembly, Ortega said the United States has plans to assassinate him in an ambush to be carried out by the Contras.

"The Contra has plans to liquidate me, kill me, assassinate me," said Ortega, who is seeking re-election as candidate of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front in Feb. 25 elections. In addition to choosing a president, Nicaraguans are also scheduled to elect new members of the national assembly.

There was no immediate comment from Contra leaders who have been trying to overthrow the government for about eight years.

Ortega said that on Sunday about 800 Contras had planned to ambush him and his campaign caravan between the towns of Quilali and San Juan De Rio Coco, about 115 miles (185 km) north of Managua.

Ortega said he was told by the government security organs about the Contra plan to attack him in northern Nicaragua.

Ortega blamed the Bush administration for publicly supporting Contra actions against

him. "The Congress of the United States approved funds for Contras as humanitarian aid so that these people make plans and assassinate the president of Nicaragua, who also is candidate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front," Ortega said.

The United States in the past has provided military aid and funds to the Contras. In 1988, however, the United States suspended all but humanitarian aid to the Contras under a peace plan drawn up by five Central American presidents.

Ortega said he will continue his campaign across the country irrespective of Contra ambushes and that such attacks will not hinder the country's electoral process.

Ortega is running for re-election in Feb. 25 general elections. His main challengers are Violeta Barrios de Chamorro of the United National Opposition, a US-backed 14-party coalition known as UNO.

He was on a campaign tour in the northern towns of Quilali, San Juan De Rio Coco and Talpan on Sunday.

Ortega said that as his entourage was about to leave Quilali for San Juan, area military commanders warned him it was unsafe because there were indications of a possible ambush by the Contras, as the rebels are known.



Bush praised

A Panama City resident walks by graffiti with the Paitilla skyline in the background. Panama City is returning to normal following last month's US invasion. (Reuters wirephoto)

Networks prefer males TV blamed of bias

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 23 (UPI). Network television news programmes predominantly turned to Republican male experts from the east coast to interpret events in 1988 and 1989, Mother Jones magazine reported.

The 10 experts who appeared most often on the ABC, CBS and NBC nightly news were "men rather than women, east coasters rather than west and Republicans (along with a few conservative Democrats) rather than critics of the political establishment," according to a study published in the February-March issue of Mother Jones, an activist magazine based in San Francisco.

The 10 appeared 336 times during the two years, according to article co-authors Lawrence Logg, who conducted the study at the University of Minnesota, and Marc Cooper, who teaches media studies at California State University at Northridge.

According to the study, the 10 were: William Schneider, 58 appearances, who taught politics at Harvard and is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute think tank.

Ed Rollins, 51 appearances, former campaign chairman for Jack Kemp.

government-supervised probation, and promised to co-operate with prosecutors in what's left of the money-laundering trial.

The top remaining defendant is Amjad Awan, a bank officer who told a US senate panel in 1988 he had acted as Noriega's personal banker, managing up to \$23 million in the dictator's secret accounts at the bank's Panama branch. Jury selection resumed yesterday morning at the trial.

US district Judge W. Terrell Hodges has imposed a gag order to prevent parties in the case from commenting.

The attorney-general's office said Paredes, a former legislator for Noriega's Democratic Revolutionary Party, was under arrest and authorities were studying possible charges of homicide, abuse of authority, personal injury and theft.

A source at the attorney-general's office said the charges were based on complaints filed by Panamanian citizens and authorities.

The highest of the military officers was Col. Alberto Paredes, third in command of Noriega's defence forces. He was charged with crimes against the state, the attorney's office said.

Three lieutenant colonels, five majors and four captains were held on charges that included abuse of authority, crimes against the state and public administration, theft, damage to public property and torture, officials said.

All had turned themselves in or been arrested by US troops after the Dec. 20 invasion to overthrow Noriega. They had been held at Fort Clayton at the request of the Panamanian government pending investigation.

Some other high-ranking officers are among 55 prisoners still held by the Americans.

The second in command of the defence forces, Col. Marcos Justine, and officers like Capt. Luis Quiel who, according to reliable sources, "was the (US) Drug Enforcement Administration's man in Noriega's defence forces," were among those at Clayton.

Several other top officers have sought asylum in foreign countries. They include Gonzalo Gaitan, commander of the army headquarters security company Eliezer Gaitan, a captain in charge of Noriega's personal security; and Noriega's public relations director.

Still at large was Lt. Col. Luis (Papo) Cordova, who critics say tortured Noriega's foes.

Panamanian President Guillermo Endara warned Monday that his government would collapse unless it received economic aid from Washington soon.

"If the United States does not help us now, everything we Panamanians and the United States have sacrificed will be lost," Endara told Reuters in an interview in Costa Rica on his first trip abroad as Panama's president.

Unless US aid arrives soon, he added, the Panamanian people will witness "not only the fall of the government, which really isn't so important, but the collapse of democracy."

The US military on Monday withdrew statements that it had found drugs in a building linked to Noriega and spotted cocaine processing plants in the jungle bordering Costa Rica.

US forces have confiscated 415 kg (915 pounds) of cocaine since the Dec. 20 invasion to oust Noriega, they said, not including nearly 300 kg (660 pounds) found in the evidence room of the anti-narcotics police.

Signal for drug tests

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23 (AP). The US Supreme Court, giving another signal that it is willing to allow random drug testing of government employees in sensitive positions, yesterday rejected appeals by Justice Department employees and civilian army counselors.

The justices, in their first drug testing rulings, last March upheld drug and alcohol tests for railway workers involved in accidents and for US customs service employees applying for jobs in drug enforcement or jobs that require carrying a gun.

Neither of those rulings, however, determined the constitutionality of random administered drug tests. Yesterday the court, without comment, rejected appeals by Justice Department employees with top security clearance and civilian army drug and alcohol counselors who said mandatory random tests violate their privacy rights.

سكاي الابل

Maggie vague on HK self-rule

LONDON, Jan 23, (Agencies): Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher today gave a non-committal response to pleas from two of Hong Kong's leading politicians that Britain grant the colony greater self-rule before the Chinese takeover in 1997, officials said.

A spokeswoman from the prime minister's office said Thatcher's 75-minute-long meeting at 10 Downing Street between Dame Lydia Dunn and Alan Lee had been "long and detailed," but she refused to give any specifics.

The two Hong Kong delegates, who are appointed unofficial members of the colony's 60-seat legislative council, were scheduled to hold a press conference later today.

"Dame Lydia Dunn and Alan Lee put their case on the future democratisation plans (for Hong Kong)," the spokeswoman reported. "The prime minister said that she would very carefully consider what they said."

Hong Kong lobbyists have been trying to persuade London to increase the number of directly elected seats to the legislature before the Chinese takeover on June 31, 1997. The official quoted Thatcher as telling the delegates that "we have not reached any conclusions on this matter."

Beijing recently stated it will only allow 30 per cent of seats to the council to be directly elected after 1997. Power now primarily lies with the governor and an executive council of colonial secretaries, and the Hong Kong lobbyists argue it is crucial to create a representative government if confidence and stability are to be maintained in the territory of 5.5 million people.

Hong Kong Governor Sir David Wilson urged Beijing today to consider the views of Hong Kong's people as criticism mounted to China's plan to limit democracy.

Bush's China policy under Hill scrutiny

US deficit, defence spending cut high on agenda

WASHINGTON, Jan 23, (Agencies): In a rare show of unity against a popular president, Democrats and Republicans in the House of Representatives are driving to blunt President Bush's diplomatic overtures to the Chinese leaders who ordered tanks to crush the pro-democracy movement in Tiananmen Square.

The House is expected to vote by an overwhelming margin tomorrow to kill the President's Nov 30 veto of a bill allowing Chinese students to seek permanent resident status instead of returning home to face possible political persecution.

Opponents of the President's opening to China were called today before a Senate judiciary subcommittee to discuss the reported harassment of Chinese students by diplomats attached to the Chinese embassy.

The House approved the students' bill in November, 403-0, and the Senate adopted it by a unanimous voice vote. Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas says there is a chance the veto may be upheld in the Senate.

Bush's China policy has largely united the House, including Representative Nancy Pelosi, Democrat-California, the chief sponsor of the student protection bill, and Representative William Broomfield, Republican-Michigan, usually one of the President's strongest supporters.

Both say House opposition has not eased despite the end of six months of martial law in China.

"First we had the massacre, now the masquerade," Pelosi said. "They deny the deaths, and the repression continues. Lifting martial law means nothing."

Democratic leaders have accused Bush of "kowtowing" to China's hardline leaders by sending two of his senior advisers on secret missions to Beijing in July and December, and by easing political and economic sanctions he ordered to show American outrage about the Tiananmen Square tragedy in which hundreds and perhaps thousands of students were killed.

Bush defended the two missions by Brent Scowcroft, his national security affairs adviser, and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger as vital to maintaining communications with the Chinese, giving him the forum to press Beijing for moderation.

Bush asserted his leadership role on foreign policy by vetoing the bill that affects more than 33,000 Chinese nationals on student visas. He put the protections into force by executive action, but it was not enough for Congress.

The issue is the first major fight of what promises to be a busy and potentially contentious year on Capitol Hill, further complicated by the partisan fight that will arise as November elections draw near for all 435 House seats and 34 out of 100 Senate seats.

Topping the agenda are the nation's deficit, how much to cut from defence spending and how much money to give to Eastern Europe and Panama. Other issues include new initiatives on clean air, child care and campaign-finance reform.

The Senate armed services committee plunges into examination of issues relating to the "peace dividend" — money that can be saved as the Warsaw Pact threat dwindles following the collapse of Soviet satellites in East Europe.

The Defence Department budget is expected to be the focus of a hotly contested political fight for much of the year as Congress seeks to cut the overall US budget deficit and fund major new programmes without raising taxes.

The armed services committee will hear today of the changing Soviet threat from intelligence officials, including Central Intelligence Agency Director William Webster.

At the same time the House banking committee will look into efforts to resolve the nation's most costly financial disaster, the collapse of hundreds of savings banks.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and others will be testifying on the need to raise \$40 billion to \$50 billion in additional working capital to close insolvent thrifts.

The first order of business in the full Senate will be major legislation revising clean air laws. The House starts its session with a resolution commending US troops who died or were wounded in the invasion of Panama and expressing regret at the loss of life there.

China's defence spending will be increased in 1990, following several years in which the military allocation has failed to keep up with rising prices, an official Beijing newspaper said.

Drive to collect 10m signatures

Kim bid to block merger

SEOUL, South Korea, Jan 23, (AP): Opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung vowed today to collect 10 million signatures on petitions calling for elections to block what his party called a one-party dictatorship being formed by a three-party merger.

President Roh Tae-Woo's government party and two moderate opposition parties announced yesterday they would join in forming a huge conservative party in an effort to end intense factionalism in the nation's politics.

Governing party officials said a sweeping cabinet reshuffle was expected in February to draw figures from the two other parties into government.

The new party, to be inaugurated within six months, will be the first in Korea's history formed by ruling and opposition parties.

Its creation is a setback to Kim Dae-Jung's Party for Peace and Democracy, which became the largest opposition party in 1988 elections that ended the parliamentary majority of Roh's party.

The new party would have a two-thirds majority in the national assembly.

"We will have to begin a pan-national campaign to make Roh's government give in," Kim told a caucus of his party.

Dissidents and radical students denounced formation of the new party as an attempt by a pro-US military dictatorship to prolong its power.

On major university campuses in Seoul, students put up wall posters calling for a civil uprising to overthrow Roh's government and block its alliance with opposition groups.

In Kwangju, Kim Dae-Jung's hometown, hundreds of students shouting "overthrow Roh Tae-Woo" fought riot police with firebombs and rocks on two university campuses.

In a resolution adopted in today's caucus, Kim's party said, "we can see a harsh suppression prepared against democratic forces, but we are ready to crush any dictatorial regime."



One of the several workers who occupied a district office of the South Korean Labour Ministry Jan 22, aims a petrol bomb at a policeman who was trying to evict them. (Reuters wirephoto).

It called for a petition drive for general elections, meaning a new vote for the national assembly, as a referendum on the new political move.

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21

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40

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6 dead, 8 hurt in Macao fire

MACAO, Jan 23, (AP): A suspicious fire swept through a three-storey apartment building in this Portuguese enclave before dawn today, killing six people and injuring eight others, officials said.

Macao fire department chief Paul Assis described the fire as "abnormal" and said an investigation had started. Macao judiciary police also were looking into the cause.

The fire broke out in the wood-and-brick building along the inner harbour of Macao, at the mouth of the Pearl river in southern China, and spread quickly throughout the structure, officials said.

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Burt (left) greets Soviet Ambassador Yuri Nazarkin at the start of arms talks. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arms talks resume amid renewed confidence

GENEVA, Jan 23, (AP): US and Soviet arms negotiators resumed talks yesterday voicing renewed confidence they will meet the Malta summit goal of completing a Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty before the end of the year.

Round 13 of the 5-year-old negotiations on long range nuclear arms and space weapons began with a meeting between the heads of the delegations, Richard Burt and Yuri Nazarkin, to discuss the programme of the closed-door talks.

A joint statement said both men hope "it will be possible during his round to make substantial progress on those issues where differences remain." The upbeat note was underlined by the signing of a new agreement allowing both sides for the first

time to inspect each other's nuclear warheads on a trial basis. The trial inspections are intended to show procedures officials hope to use to make sure the number of warheads on each missile does not exceed the number assigned under the Start treaty.

"It's a good way to start," Burt told reporters after the 35-minute meeting. Nazarkin nodded and stressed that it was already the fourth "trial measure" agreed upon by the negotiators.

The three earlier measures covered notification of manoeuvres, procedures to identify bombers carrying air launched Cruise Missiles, or ALCMS, and provisions for each side to show how they identify the other's missiles.

The Start treaty is intended to cut by 30 to 50 per

cent the number of land-, and- and sea-based missiles with which each superpower can strike the other. Both sides have already agreed on lowered ceilings of 1,600 delivery vehicles — missiles and bombers — and 6,000 nuclear warheads.

US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed at Malta that all major outstanding issues should be resolved by their next summit in June and that the Start treaty should be signed before the end of 1990.

When asked whether the negotiators felt under pressure, Burt replied, "it's constructive pressure." The United States has decided to delay further negotiations on limiting nuclear testing once two treaties now being discussed by Washington and

Moscow are ratified by the Senate, the State Department said yesterday.

The position is a change in policy likely to anger the Soviet Union and arms control advocates worldwide.

In previous official statements of policy, the United States had promised that once the threshold test ban treaty and the peaceful nuclear explosion treaty were ratified, "we will immediately propose negotiations on ways to implement a step-by-step parallel programme ... of limiting and ultimately ending nuclear testing."

But a State Department spokeswoman, Nancy Beck, said new negotiations would be delayed for an indefinite period.

Talks open to avoid forced repatriation

US opposes: Britain adamant on boat people

GENEVA, Jan 23, (UPI): Involved nations began two days of talks today on alternatives to Britain's declared intention to forcibly send back thousands of Vietnamese boat people crowding Hong Kong camps.

The United States said it remains opposed to British policy because there are still no assurances that repatriated refugees will be fairly treated.

"Our position is still against forced repatriation until the situation in Vietnam changes," said a spokesman for the US delegation, led by Robert Funseth, assistant deputy secretary of state for refugee affairs. "Conditions in Vietnam still preclude fair treatment of returning refugees," the spokesman said.

The two-day meeting involved the 15 nations represented on a steering committee established under a "comprehensive plan of action" for Indochinese refugees agreed at a Geneva conference last summer.

Members comprise Asian countries of refugee origin and of first asylum plus the Western countries providing final resettlement possibilities.

About 10 additional nations were attending the Geneva meeting.

Last year's plan centred on encouraging the voluntary return of refugees and finding alternatives to forced repatriation, which violates basic principles of the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Vietnam at the 1989 conference pledged not to discriminate against returning nationals — a promise hardly yet put to the test because of the small numbers agreeing to voluntary return.

Britain before Christmas caused a furore by an initial forced repatriation from Hong Kong of 51 boat people.

Thorwald Stoltenberg of Norway, who became high commissioner for refugees just one week ago told the meeting that "the preservation of the principle and practice of first asylum" remains the plan's "fundamental objective."

"We are fully aware of the heavy burden that the Indochinese influx has imposed on asylum states in the past 15 years," Stoltenberg said. "The continued generous granting of temporary refuge to new arrivals has been a most encouraging commitment in these circumstances."

"Having said so I must, however, express serious concern at the continuing reports of denial of refuge in the region," he said without naming any specific countries.

Bombs go off on 8 trains in Tokyo area

TOKYO, Jan 23, (AP): Time bombs believed set by leftist radicals exploded almost simultaneously on eight trains in the Tokyo area early today, but no injuries were reported, police said.

A metropolitan police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the explosions, all small, damaged seats on the trains.

He declined to discuss further details, but Kyodo news service reported that Japan's best-known radical group, the Chukaku-Ha (middle core faction), claimed responsibility for the blasts.

Kyodo said that in a statement sent to news media, the group declared "unlimited war" against plans for the formal coronation of Emperor Akihito in November and for expansion of Tokyo's International Airport.

Chiang won't risk running for VP

TAIPEI, Jan 23, (AP): Chiang Wego, son of the late Chiang Kai-Shek, says he does not intend to run for vice president despite urging from the ruling Nationalist Party's conservative old guard, a report said today.

The liberal independence Morning Post quoted Chiang Wego, 74, as saying "our entire family's reputation would be ruined" if he should try but fail to win the post.

Chiang Wego, whose father led the nationalist government to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war to communist forces on the Chinese mainland, has been an army general and now is secretary-general of the National Security Council.

Kaifu to call general polls

Popularity down

TOKYO, Jan 23, (UPI): Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu prepared today to dissolve the powerful lower house of parliament and call general elections next month amid poor popularity rating for his administration.

Kaifu, 58, called on Emperor Akihito today to report on his recent tour of both Western and Eastern Europe and his resolve to dissolve the lower house and hold general elections, government sources said.

A nation-wide opinion survey conducted last weekend showed that public support for Kaifu's administration improved slightly over the past month but was outclassed by the non-support rate, the national daily Asahi Shimbun reported today.

The daily said the support rate stood at 37 per cent, up from 35 per cent in December, against the non-support rate of 41 per cent, up from 40 per cent.

The paper said public support for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party stood at 48 per cent, compared with 30 per cent for the No. 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party.

Political sources said the LDP and opposition parties formally agreed to dissolve the lower house tomorrow afternoon after voting for three pending bills, including government subsidies to farmers.

The government will proclaim on Feb 3 that the election will be

held Feb 18, the sources said. Government spokeswoman Mayumi Moriyama told reporters a regular cabinet session scheduled for Friday has been cancelled.

It will be the first national election since Kaifu took office Aug 9 after his two predecessors stepped down in less than three months to take the blame for bribery and sex scandals.

The LDP, which has been in power since its founding in 1955, lost a majority in the upper house for the first time in an election for the chamber last July.

Political analysts blamed the LDP's setback for the lingering impact of the bribery scandal and Japan's first sales tax, introduced in April.

Most senior party leaders, including former prime minister Noboru Takeshita, were involved in the shares-for-favours scandal which surfaced in the summer last year.

Recruit Co., a major publishing and information service conglomerate at the centre of the scandal, was accused of distributing a large number of pre-listed shares of its subsidiary to selected political and public figures to expand its business.

A total of 14 people, including Recruit's founder and former chairman Hiromasa Ezoe, now stand trial on bribery charges.

Mongolia declares first local elections

EAST BERLIN, Jan 23, (Reuters):

The Mongolian Communist Party, facing unprecedented popular pressure to reform, has for the first time promised elections for local party posts, the official East German News Agency ADN said today.

ADN, reporting from the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, said the party newspaper Ulsan had announced town and district elections for the third quarter of the 1990.

Up to now Mongolia's Stalinist leadership has not permitted competition for party posts.

"Local party leaders are preparing for any changes that might follow and have been ordered to heed all wishes and suggestions from their members," the ADN report said.

ADN said the politburo of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party had decided to hold elections before its 20th party congress.

The report was from ADN correspondent Hugo Kroepf, one of only a handful of foreign journalists based permanently in Mongolia. He speaks Mongol and is considered an authority on the country in his native East Germany.

Yesterday the Mongolian Democratic Association, a fledgling reform group demanding an end to the country's 69-year-old communist system, predicted that democracy would take root this year.

Commenting on the group's demands for the first time, a government spokesman told foreign journalists that the ruling Communist party could "envisage a multi-party system."

Mongolia is a vast land of rolling steppes sandwiched between China and the Soviet Union. Home to just over two million people, it is the world's second oldest communist country and remains closely allied to the Soviet Union.

But the winds of change that toppled hard-line communist leaders in Moscow's Eastern European allies have now reached this remote land.

The Democratic Association has staged four unofficial demonstrations in Ulan Bator since early December. A statue of former Soviet leader Josef Stalin was removed last week from a city street.

The spokesman, Keer Adm, Kraichit Sinsombat, spoke at a news conference briefing reporters on the past month of guerrilla activities.

The Vietnamese-installed government is opposed by a three-party res-



Jakarta streets flooded

A young mother helps her little daughter across a flooded street in Jakarta's residential area on Jan 23. Floods have swept some parts of Indonesian

islands following heavy rains recently. (Reuters wirephoto)

Missiles, hurdle to E-W detente

VIENNA, Jan 23, (AP): Despite better relations between the two superpowers, the future is clouded by growing capability of states to produce ballistic missiles, a US Army general warned yesterday.

Gen. John D. Robinson, speaking at an unusual gathering of top East-West military leaders, also said terrorism and drug trafficking are prime concerns.

The future, Robinson told the group, holds a "strategic environment even more complex than that of the last 45 years."

The general said some intelligence experts predict that by the year 2000, some 15 or more countries will have the capacity to produce and launch ballistic missiles. He also pointed to the dangers of "indiscriminate use" of chemical weapons.

The proliferation of nuclear technology, too, "should trouble everyone," he said.

While hailing improved relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, Robinson said some global trends "are not so positive."

The meeting, attended by top military officers from 35 nations, opened Jan 16. It is part of a series of steps by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the Warsaw Pact and neutral nations aimed at easing military tensions in Europe.

Robinson is the director of force structure resource planning and assessment at the joint staff directorate.

Last week, Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff, the top US military officer, addressed the gathering.

The government yesterday presented a bill to Parliament calling for a six-month extension on the May deadline for the United States to dismantle its military installations in Greece.

Under the terms of a defence accord that expired in December 1988, the United States has until May 21 to remove personnel, property and material from four major bases and several smaller installations unless a new agreement is reached.

The proposed new deadline for dismantling the bases is Nov 21.

The bill, signed by Foreign Minister Antonis Samaras and Defence Minister Tzannis Tzannetakis, is scheduled to be debated by a parliamentary committee today.

It will then be presented to a full parliamentary session for debate and a vote.

The Conservative and Socialist parties that support Premier Xenophon Zolotas' three-party administration decided last month to grant the six-month extension requested by the United States so that negotiations on a new defence pact could continue.

The planned US testing today of an unarmed cruise missile over Canada's northern territories will be virtually ignored by peace and environmental groups, a spokesman for the Toronto-based Greenpeace said yesterday.

"We have no plans for action against it," Greenpeace spokesman David Croft said. "The issue is by no means dead, but we are concentrating on other things."

NEWS IN BRIEF

World's tallest man dies: Gabriel Estavo Mondlane, reportedly the tallest man in the world at more than 8 feet, has died of injuries sustained when he accidentally fell down in the backyard of his Maputo home, the state-run daily Noticias reported Tuesday. He was 45.

Mondlane, recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the tallest living man in the world at 8 feet, 3/4 inches (245.7 cm) died Sunday, said Noticias, which estimated his height at 2.7 metres (9 feet).

Known in Mozambique as the "Giant of Mandlakazi" after his birthplace in the southern Mozambican province of Gaza, Mondlane fell in his backyard Sunday and hit his head violently on the concrete patio, Noticias said.

It said he is survived by a wife and a 14-year-old son. (UPI)

Commuters block railroad: Angry commuters clashed with riot police Monday after hundreds of rail travellers blocked a busy suburban line for more than six hours to protest delays caused by



Zappa meets Havel

American rock star Frank Zappa had talks on Monday with Czechoslovakia's playwright President Vclav Havel.

Czechoslovakia's CTK news agency said Zappa, whose music combines jazz and pop with political satire, told Havel of his plans to shoot a film about Czechoslovakia for the US television group financial News Network.

Zappa, 49, also expressed a willingness to help Czechoslovakia financially, CTK added. (Reuters wirephoto)

striking engineers in Oeiras, Portugal.

No injuries were reported. Protesters claimed the state-owned Caminhos de Ferro Portugueses (CP) railroad company failed to provide promised Sunday service on the line during the strike.

Police estimated up to 4,000 people took part in the protest, which began just before 9 am (0900 GMT) when rush-hour trains failed to pick up Lisbon-bound passengers in this suburban station 20 kilometres (12.5 miles) west of the capital. (AP)

Parcel full of cash found: A bomb squad called to defuse a suspicious parcel outside a Spanish Marquis's home found it contained three million pesetas (\$27,000) neatly wrapped in a shoebox, police said on Monday in Seville, Spain.

There was no word on who left the mysterious gift at the door of Luis Gonzaga, Marquis of Iruin, in Jerez, 80 km (50 miles) south of Seville. (Reuters)

Rumor is dead: Mariano Rumor, a former five-time Christian Democrat premier, died of a heart attack at age 74, it was reported on Tuesday.

Rumor led coalition governments in the tumultuous period of the late 1960s and early 1970s, when Italy was wracked by student protests, labour unrest, and rightist and leftist terrorism.

A senator at the time of his death, the former secretary of the dominant Christian Democrats died late Monday night in his native city of Vicenza, the Rai state network reported.

His political career began when he joined a Roman Catholic organisation critical of Fascist dictator Benito Mussolini. (AP)

Boy electrocuted in bathtub: A 5-year-old boy was electrocuted Monday when his baby brother dropped their mother's hair dryer in his bath, police said in Sydney, Australia.

Brendan Good died instantly when the blow dryer short-circuited, electrifying the water, Constable Gary Plunket said.

He said Karen Good had placed her son in the bathtub, with his baby brother Peter, 23 months, watching, and went down stairs to attend to some chores Monday night at their home in the Sydney suburb of Bradbury.

When she called out and received no answer she rushed upstairs to find Brendan floating face-up in the bath.

Cambodian rebels cut main govt supply lines

Vietnam and Phnom Penh may be forced into flexibility

BANGKOK, Jan 23, (AP): Cambodian guerrillas have cut parts of main government supply lines from the interior of the country to battlefields in the west, a Thai military spokesman said today.

He confirmed guerrilla claims to have cut parts of route 5 and route 6, which run the length of the country from Phnom Penh to the western border with Thailand, and a rail line linking Pursat, Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces.

The spokesman, Keer Adm, Kraichit Sinsombat, spoke at a news conference briefing reporters on the past month of guerrilla activities.

The Vietnamese-installed government is opposed by a three-party res-

istance coalition made up of the communist Khmer Rouge, the non-communist forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

The guerrillas have reported making major gains since late September, when Vietnam made what it called the withdrawal of its last troops from the country.

The past month of victories, Kraichit said, could pressure Vietnam and the Cambodian government into greater flexibility in negotiating an end to the war.

Government forces now were concentrating on securing the most important cities, he said. Kraichit said stepped up Khmer

Rouge attacks on Route 56, in western Pursat province near the Thai border, forced Phnom Penh forces to retreat deeper into the country and concentrate on protecting the provincial capital.

Kraichit said the guerrillas also have stepped up fighting in Sisophon district, site of a government military operations centre, and in Battambang province. They are moving into Siem Reap province, particularly near Angkor Wat, a temple complex in what was the capital of a Cambodian empire in the 12th and 13th centuries.

The resistance also has increased attacks in the north and central parts

of Cambodia and seized areas in six districts in the central province of Kompong Thom, he said.

Kraichit said the Khmer Rouge, the largest guerrilla group, has hit targets including an airport in a suburb of Battambang town, the capital of the province of the same name and the country's second-largest city.

The Khmer Rouge has claimed a major shelling attack on the town in early January and said it was continuing strikes on supply routes to the town.

Negotiations on ending the war and forming an interim government pending national elections have bogged down over the question of the

future role of the Khmer Rouge, which killed hundreds of thousands of people when it ruled Cambodia in 1975-78.

Communist Khmer Rouge guerrillas are preventing Cambodian refugees from going to a UN camp and instead moving them toward a border area that was heavily shelled in the past, international relief officials said today.

Bursts of small arms fire erupted in the Borei camp shortly after UN trucks began arriving there yesterday to take refugees to the site K camp, said Patrick Van de Velde, deputy director of the UN border relief operation. That prompted the trucks to wait outside the camp.



Two Khmer Rouge rebels sit on a pile of artillery shells at Phnom Malai. (Reuters wirephoto)

مكتبة الامم المتحدة



King Zog speaks during his interview. (Reuters wirephoto)

Leka plots to topple regime

PARIS, Jan. 23, (Reuters): The pretender to the throne of Albania says it would take just four or five days for a popular revolution to oust the leaders of Eastern Europe's last bastion of Stalinist communism.

Self-styled King Zog, trained for battle at Britain's elite Sandhurst military academy, said in an interview he was willing to head an army to install democracy in the tiny Balkan state.

"It would only take four or five days if the uprising was carefully planned," said the 50-year-old Leka, who is plotting a revolution from his exile in South Africa.

Leka, touring Europe and the United States to drum up support for his cause, said Nexhmije Hoxha, widow of former leader Enver Hoxha, would not allow Albania to follow the rest of Eastern Europe in rejecting communism.

The Stalinist leadership in Albania rejected major political change during an emergency session of the Communist Party central committee last week, he said in an interview yesterday with Reuters and the television news agency Visnews.

"I had no doubt how the meeting would turn out. The only way to get change in Albania is through a popular uprising," said the son of the late King Zog.

The pretender, who left Albania when he was just two days old after his father was overthrown by invading German and Italian troops, said he believed revolution in Albania would be longer in coming than in other Eastern European countries.

"I think there will be major developments this year but I won't be more specific than that," he said.

He said the greatest threat to a revolution would come from specially trained units of the Sigurimi secret police.

"The Sigurimi is in general badly trained and poorly equipped but there is an elite force which is of battalion size whose training is good by Western military standards," he said.

He agreed with parallels with executed Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's Securitate secret police, a few hundred of whom held out for several days after a popular uprising last month.

Albania has denied Yugoslav and Greek press reports that a state of emergency had been declared in the north of the country and security reinforced around the Tirana homes of Albania's leaders.

Hundreds flee tense N. Jaffna

COLOMBO, Jan. 23, (Reuters): Some 700 people have fled their homes in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna district and taken refuge in temples after fierce fighting between Tamil rebels and Indian troops killed 16 people at the weekend, security sources said.

They said a 36-hour curfew clamped on parts of the district was lifted today but sporadic shooting could still be heard.

Shops were closed, public transport was halted and roads were deserted, residents said.

"The area is tense but quiet," security sources said.

The Indian High Commission said yesterday 11 Indian soldiers were killed and 15 injured when the Tigers attacked military patrols with rockets and other heavy artillery on Sunday.

Five fighters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were killed in the shootout, a Tigers spokesman said. The local media reported higher death tolls, with as many as 50 people dead.

Azerbaijan beginning of end Yeltsin sees return of dictatorship

TOKYO, Jan. 23, (Reuters): Soviet reformer Boris Yeltsin today accused the Kremlin of wanting to extend a state of emergency declared in strife-torn Azerbaijan to the entire nation and to return to a dictatorship.

"The leadership and the conservatives are very eager to decree a state of emergency throughout the country, reintroduce a dictatorship and rule by the iron fist," Yeltsin told a news conference in Tokyo.

If Kremlin leaders were not ready to adopt faster reforms at a

meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee next month, Soviet politics would become deadlocked, he said.

Yeltsin, who last week said the Soviet Union was facing self-destruction within three months if radical reforms were not adopted immediately, named arch-conservatives such as Politburo member Yegor Ligachev as being behind the plan to adopt the all-out emergency measure.

"Ligachev would follow Marxist dogma until the day he dies," said Yeltsin, who is visiting

Japan at the invitation of local media groups and an organisation affiliated to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

The reformer, a vocal critic of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said the Soviet Union's 15 republics must have independence and their own constitutions "within a federation."

"If we continue to keep this genie (of desire for independence) in the bottle, we will have a situation like Romania," he said. "But I'm not for the immediate secession of these

republics.

Yeltsin said reforms had been introduced incorrectly in the Soviet republics, where there was a resurgence of national pride "the people have already tasted freedom," he said.

He said he favoured a return to a loose treaty system among the republics rather than the centralisation of power under one party in Moscow.

Tensions would relax only if bills providing the republics with more self-rule were passed, he said.

Leaders fail to reunite party

Slovenians walk out of congress

BELGRADE, Jan. 23, (AP): The country's communist leaders failed today to reunite their fractured party after delegates from liberal-minded Slovenia stormed out of a party congress and said they would form a new party.

The move threatened the unity of the ethnically diverse and economically troubled Yugoslav federation.

Slovenian party spokesman Peter Bekes said his republic's delegation would establish an "independent party on the basis of democratic socialism" at a regional party conference on Feb. 2.

The dramatic walkout came as delegates were preparing for a final vote on a reform document that would relinquish the Communist Party's 45-year monopoly on power.

But the vote never came, and the congress was forced to adjourn late yesterday — a day ahead of schedule — with no date set for a new session.

Leading Slovenian communist Milan Kucan, told journalists that the breakup of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, the official name of the ruling party, "is the only possible consequence of this action."

In announcing the Slovenian decision, regional party leader Ciril Ribic said the congress had failed to accept any of his delegation's proposals.

The delegates from the relatively prosperous northern



Milan Kucan waits in anticipation as Yugoslav Communist Party congress votes on a Slovenian proposal to dissolve the Yugoslav party. (Reuters wirephoto)

and the entire Slovenian delegation grudgingly left the hall.

Serbia's President, Slobodan Milosevic, took the podium after the walkout and said the suspension of the congress would mean that "the party would be practically disbanded and decapitated."

He said this could have "grave consequences for the Communist Party and future of the country."

Party President Milan Pancevski, speaking to tired delegates early today after the party's leadership failed in a four-hour emergency session to end the crisis, called on regional party bodies to work for a solution.

The congress broke down after it cast a preliminary vote early yesterday in favour of relinquishing the party's guarantee of monopoly on power.

The Slovenians complained that hardliners had watered down key reform points in the document. They criticised those who voted against abolishing all laws allowing the persecution of political opponents.

They also complained about delegates' scrapping of a statement that backed seeking membership in European organisations such as the European Economic Community.

Until last year's upheaval in Eastern Europe, communists in non-aligned Yugoslavia had been considered progressive compared to those in the Soviet bloc.

UN will monitor Romania elections

BUCHAREST, Jan. 23, (Agencies): The first democratic elections in more than four decades will be held on May 20, and UN observers will be asked to monitor balloting, a senior member of the provisional government announced today.

Dimitra Mazilu, on the council of the National Salvation Front that has run Romania since Nicolae Ceausescu was toppled and executed last month, also told reporters that front candidates would run for parliament.

Earlier, Justice Minister Teodor Vasile set Saturday as the date of the initial Bucharest trial of Ceausescu associates and said the four former top officials would be the first to go to court on abetting genocide and other charges.

As Vasile announced the date of the trials, a historian describing the last moments of Ceausescu and his wife said the two had run in panic from the firing squad lined up to execute them Dec. 25.

The dictator was finally cornered and shot. His wife was initially shot in the back and then sprayed frontally with bullets, historian Christian Popescu said.

The council had originally planned to hold elections in April, but recently agreed a delay was necessary. Mazilu said the postponement was decided on following requests from the more than one dozen new and revived opposition parties seeking more time to prepare for balloting.

"The council, to demonstrate good will, and the desire to ensure objectivity in the elections, has declared its readiness to receive a group of observers from the United Nations," he added.

In an interview with Romanian state radio, Vasile said the four to be tried Saturday before a military tribunal are former Communist Party secretary Emil Boba, No. 3 in the party hierarchy behind Ceausescu and his wife Elena; former interior minister Tudor Postelnicu, the official in charge of the Securitate, Ceausescu's special police; and ex-politburo members Manea Manescu and Ion Dima.

Romania's prosecutor-general disclosed last week that virtually the entire leadership of the Romanian Communist Party was under arrest, including Ceausescu's son, Nicu, the former local party boss in Sibiu, 300 kms (180 miles) northwest of Bucharest.

Nicu, 39, reportedly ordered the Securitate to open fire on demonstrators during the revolution that toppled his father Dec. 22. No date has been set for his trial.

Gheorghe Robu, the prosecutor-general, told the daily Adevarul today that the four will be tried by a military tribunal at the Ministry of Defence in a room that holds 700 people and that the trial would be telecast live.

Adevarul said abetting genocide, under article 237 in the Romanian penal code, is punishable by a maximum 20 years in prison.

A similar military court sentenced Ceausescu and his wife to death Dec. 25 after their conviction on charges of genocide and other crimes.

Also today, the government issued a decree dismantling the Stefan Gheorghiu Social and Political Academy, which had been used to train government and Securitate secret police officials.

Romania's chief rabbi said today that Ceausescu was anti-Semitic despite allowing the Jewish religion to flourish and maintaining friendly ties with Israel.



Women cry during the funeral service that began on Monday in the Kirov Park, Baku. Up to one million mourners jammed the streets to honour scores killed at the weekend. (Reuters wirephoto)

Safe sex songs Plan to cut population

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23, (AP): In languages from West African Pidgin English to the Tagalog of the Philippines, pop songs financed by the US government are cautioning young people about sex.

While many pop songs seem to promote sex, the songs commissioned by the US Agency for International Development try to do the opposite. "Wait For Me" is the title song of an album that has been a best-seller in Nigeria.

"Dis tin them call love," "Na serious affair," "Make you think well," "Before you gree."

Translated from Pidgin English, the lyrics say: "This thing they call love is a serious affair. Think well before you agree."

The song was recorded by King Sunny Ade, one of Africa's most popular bandleaders, and Onyekwenu Onwenu, who wrote both music and lyrics. The Nigerian album's popularity has spilled over into neighbouring countries. The next step will be a recording for nearby French-speaking republics like Zaire, Senegal and the Ivory Coast.

Another song, "Choices," suggests using birth control. The lyrics: "Yes we shouldn't make children," "We cannot take care of," "There are ways of making love," "Without making children."

In the Philippines, a US-sponsored song called "I Still Believe" had English lyrics sung by Lea Salonga. "I don't think it's right to need me," "Just for a lonely night."

To which Charlie Masso replied in Tagalog: "I'm willing to wait for a while."

The song was No. 1 in the Philippine charts for two months, the agency said. Many people engaged in trying to raise the living standards of poor countries see rapid population growth as the chief obstacle.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Power sharing strategy: Having scored a dubious victory in wresting a power-sharing promise from the dominant communists, East Germany's inexperienced opposition yesterday pondered how big a share of the responsibility it can handle.

A leader of the Social Democrats conceded that informal talks among pro-democracy groups so far has failed to yield a common strategy on how closely the opposition should work with the rival communists.

Meanwhile, East German border guards worked through the night dismantling a 300-metre (325 yard) stretch of the Berlin Wall, to begin replacing the hated cold war symbol with a simple metal fence.

Communist Premier Hans Modrow offered on Monday to rebuild his cabinet to include opposition forces like the Social Democrats and New Forum, the largest of the reform movements challenging the still-dominant communists. (AP)

Lower US defence costs: The reduction of US troops stationed in Europe under an East-West treaty that may be signed this year would lower US defence costs by only \$3 billion a year, a Congressional report said on Monday.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report said further East-West force reductions that might take place later on in response to democratic changes sweeping Eastern Europe could cut US defence spending by up to \$27 billion a year. However, it said that would not occur before the mid-1990s.

Pete Domenici, senior Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, said the report showed that US

defence spending, which will come to \$287 billion in 1990, would not be cut significantly by the conventional forces in Europe treaty being negotiated in Vienna.

The treaty, nearing completion, would cut 30,000 of the 305,000 US troops in Europe in exchange for a cut of 325,000 Soviet soldiers, reducing each superpower's troops in Europe to 275,000. The treaty also would reduce the number of tanks and planes in the Nato and Warsaw Pact alliances. (Reuters)

Powell warning on defence: The United States should beware of dropping its defences so low it has a "hollow army" as a result of the reduced threat from the Soviet Union, the top US military officer said Monday.

"Although the Soviets retain a significant military capability, the political likelihood of them using that capability against us or our allies in Europe is less than it has been in decades," said Gen. Colin L. Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

Not only is the Soviet Union changing, its Warsaw Pact allies are forming independent ideas of their defence needs, Powell said in his first public remarks since attending a meeting last week in Vienna of military chiefs of the 16 Nato, seven Warsaw Pact and 12 non-aligned countries of Europe.

Powell, whose remarks were in a speech to the Reserve Officer Association, clearly was impressed by the changes he saw among his Warsaw Pact counterparts. (AP)

Poland dismantles co-operatives: Parliament has begun dismantling the vast co-operative system that had been attacked as a monopolistic, bureaucratic vestige of communist power that must be pared down and opened to competition.

The lawmakers, backed by the Solidarity-dominated government, voted during a long weekend debate to dissolve the central co-operative unions, the top tier of a system that funneled small producers' wares into a network of distributors ultimately regulated by supreme councils.

"Does a soemaker in the countryside really need a chief manager in Warsaw?" Deputy Urszula Jazdz asked during the debate, PAP reported. (AP)

Bulgarians want to reform faster: Bulgaria will have to reform faster than the Soviet Union if it is to avoid the frustrations that have sparked violence in the Soviet republics, government and opposition leaders said yesterday. (Reuters)



Former East German head of state Egon Krenz (right) had to show his identity card at the security gate when he wanted to get to the round table meeting in East Berlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hinduja totally denies involvement in Bofors gun deal

NEW DELHI, Jan. 23, (AP): The government filed preliminary charges against the Swedish arms manufacturer A.B. Bofors, yesterday accusing the company of cheating India out of \$50 million in a 1986 arms deal.

Investigators said former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi would be among those questioned.

Rajendra Shekhar, director of India's Central Bureau of Investigation, told reporters the preliminary charges would be a "launching pad" for investigations that Bofors paid

kickbacks to secure the lucrative arms contract.

A.B. Bofors has rejected allegations of wrongdoing, and the company said yesterday it would have nothing to say about the latest developments.

"We've had no direct contacts (with Indian officials) over this and have no comments at all," said company spokesman Johnny Ericson.

Asked if Rajiv would be among those questioned in the probe, Shekhar said: "He would be, obviously."

Rajiv also has denied charges of corruption in his government.

Hinduja, in a statement issued in London, said: "I totally deny that I am in any way involved in it," and added that there might be those "within and outside the government who are trying to harm me and my family's reputation."

Shekhar said the involvement to several others, including top Indian officials, was also being investigated, but refused to name them.

De Klerk, Jackson get death threats

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 23, (AP): Police said today they were investigating death threats by a right-wing extremist group against South African President F.W. de Klerk and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

Authorities were checking two letters sent to the citizen newspaper in the name of the white wolves threatening to kill De Klerk and Jackson, who is expected to visit South Africa shortly, a police spokesman said.

Police said the investigation was "sensitive" and they could not release any details.

One of the letters was headed "death threat" — Jesse Jackson, the newspaper reported in today's editions. It warned the American civil rights leader would be killed if he visited South Africa.

"We are now warning you that Jesse Jackson's blood will be on your hands," the letter said.

The letters demanded the release of five imprisoned men linked to the white wolves, the paper said. The letters warned De Klerk would be killed if the group members were not freed, it said.

The United States' top official for African affairs declined yesterday with De Klerk and four cabinet members at the start of visit intended to assess the government's proposals for political reform.

Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen declined to disclose details of his talks. He told journalists he would not be meeting with jailed black leader Nelson Mandela during his three-day visit, but did not say whether he had requested such a meeting.

Police used rubber bullets and a water canon today to disperse more than 5,000 black and mixed-race students protesting government education policies.

Fleeing youths smashed windows of shops and cars.

There was no immediate police report on injuries or arrests. One man was cut when a blast from the water canon knocked him into a roll of razor wire.

The clash occurred after students and teachers from outlying townships gathered at St. George's Anglican cathedral in downtown Cape Town for an unauthorised march to the nearby department of education and training.

Police placed rolls of razor wire along the intended parade route and rejected organisers' requests to allow the march to proceed.

Ignoring police warnings, protesters set off down a shopping street but were halted at the razor wire.

As the first rows of marchers began to turn back, police began spraying a water canon, and the crowd began fleeing in several directions.

Are you interested?

The Kuwait Sheraton is refurbishing all suites and bedrooms and therefore is offering existing furniture for immediate sale at competitive prices on a wholesale basis.

The furniture includes such items as carpets, beds, side-tables and lamps and will be available for viewing on January 27, 28 & 29, 1990.

If you are interested, please contact Mr. Adnan Said at Kuwait Sheraton Hotel Tel: 2422055.

For visit arrangements.



The hospitality people of ITT

Amir's call for dialogue sincere: report

Call for unity in Kuwait

LONDON, Jan 23, (Kuna): An Arabic language daily, based here, yesterday reported that various sectors of the Kuwaiti society had expressed satisfaction with assertions made by HH the Amir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed about opening dialogue on the form of democracy and parliamentary practices to be introduced in the relationship between the authority and the masses.

Reporting from Kuwait, Al Sharq Al Awwal quoted concerned parliamentary, academic, religious and popular forces as unanimous that the Amir's call for

dialogue was sincerely meant to realise co-operation, without undermining anybody's rights or affecting internal unity.

Mainstays

The paper, published in London, referred to the Kuwaiti Cabinet's statement praising the Amir's address, which, it said, was a clear answer to all questions raised by the Kuwaiti individual regarding the future of democracy and political life in the country.

The daily also printed excerpts of the

cable sent by Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla to the Amir and his emphasis that the address reflected keenness on Kuwait's security, stability and advancement as one of the mainstays of the principled and wise policies pursued over the past years which had enabled the country to overcome all previous challenges.

Al Yaqza on the other hand praised HH the Amir's speech delivered on the occasion of the final decade in the 20th century.

The magazine hailed the words said by

HH "that brought an end to imagination and doubts."

The magazine then evaluated the speech that Kuwait is a small country and that whatever happens the Kuwaiti people will stay together.

Al Yaqza praised HH the Amir, who is guiding the Kuwaiti people to what is right and then talked about parliamentary life in Kuwait.

The magazine called for unity especially that "we are people of a small country that cannot tolerate division," it concluded.

Citizens criticise level of education

Low priority to academics

A LOCAL daily has interviewed a number of citizens to obtain an overview of the education issue and the reasons Kuwaiti graduates face obstacles in joining the teaching profession.

Manahi Dadih has described the education level in the country as low, clarifying that Kuwaiti students in the secondary and intermediate schools were in general below standard and are not qualified to join higher education. He complained that students in general were very poor in English.

Mutlak Naser said that the ministry is reviewing pessimistically the special tutorials imparted at private institutes, but in the schools tutorial classes were being organised. He clarified that tutorials either organised by the private institutes or by the schools themselves were but two faces of the same coin. He attributed the weakness of the students to the inefficiency prevailing among teachers.

Ayed Ghaleb lamented the education level in the country and said that students were mostly involved in extra-curricular activities such as music, sports and other competition and that such activities were being conducted at the expense of real academic learning.

High density Naser Al Mikhled complained that the remote areas are suffering high density in the classes and

that each class in such schools contain about 40 students. He added that this phenomenon constitute a problem for teachers and students and must be radically solved. He added that administrative development in schools is an area of education that should be accorded priority.

Faisal Al Mutairi complained of the behaviour of principals who believe that they own schools managed by them. Marzouk Al-Osail, thanked sincere teachers for their effort, but noted that some teachers have given this sacred post a bad name. He added that the behaviour of this section of teachers is against the educational process.

Recruitment

Fahed Al Hamly said that the Ministry of Education has refused to recruit Kuwaiti graduates from Kuwait University under the guise that there are no vacancies commensurate with their qualifications although, some of the jobs applied for were held by expatriates. He said that most of the ministry's teachers were expatriates and yet Kuwaiti applicants were being rejected.

Mohsen Al Mohammad criticised the timing of the spring holiday and described it as inappropriate as the weather during such holidays is cold and suggested that this holiday should begin by the end of February. He also criticised the cancelling of the food service at the ministry's schools expressing hope that the ministry will resume such a service even if it has to charge symbolically.

Mohammed Abdullah has called on the ministry to re-examine the transport service for students, clarifying that the cancelling of such service had left the girls students as targets for reckless youth and eve-teasers.

Parent councils

Muhana Al Otairi has called for developing parent councils at schools and expressed regret that such councils were not playing their roles effectively. He said that these councils were mostly involved in organising parties at the expense of the school curriculum.

Naser Mansour has criticised the attitude of sociologists at the ministry's schools and described it as passive although schools are witnessing the emergence of negative social phenomena among students. He called on the ministry's administrations to give this issue the necessary concern, referring that most of the sociologists at these schools have transferred to do administrative jobs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir patronises

KUWAIT, Jan 23, (Kuna): HH the Amir, the Supreme Commander of the Army and the Armed Forces patronises tomorrow morning the graduation ceremony of the 18th batch of police cadet officers at the police academy.

Saudi denial

RIYADH, Jan 23, (Kuna): A Saudi official source has denied reports published by British papers on a Saudi plan to increase oil production to ten million barrels a day during the 1990s.

Saudi Press Agency quoted an official source last night as saying "it is regrettable that Financial Times and Middle East Business insist on a Saudi oil production increase in the 1990s despite the kingdom's denials of the same reports last Thursday."

Ban on smoking

ABU DHABI, Jan 23, (Reuters): The United Arab Emirates has banned smoking in its more than 300 government hospitals and medical centres.

It is also considering banning smoking among 45,000 employees in all government offices. A recent survey found 30 per cent of them were smokers.

PLO delegation

KUWAIT, Jan 23, (Kuna): A senior Palestinian official was quoted here today as saying that a new method for selecting a Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel has been blessed by Israel, Egypt and the PLO.

The official told a Kuwaiti newspaper that the Palestinian delegation will be formed in a similar way to the appointment of international arbitrators for the Israeli-Egyptian dispute over the Golan area.

According to the unidentified official, the PLO, Egypt and Israel were informed of the new method recently and that they all have welcomed it. The US has proposed 25 names from inside occupied territories and some deportees out of whom only ten figures should be chosen for the talks.

The issue of a Palestinian delegation has been stalling direct talks between Palestinians and Israelis over local elections in the occupied territories.

Local elections have been called for by Israel in an apparent attempt to bring an end to the uprising which has been annoying Israel and kept it heavily preoccupied with quelling it since its outbreak in December 1987.

Sharhan receives

KUWAIT, Jan 23, (Kuna): Communications Minister Abdullah Al Sharhan yesterday received in his office separately the Ambassadors of Sweden, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

Later the minister received president and members of the union of the ministry's employees, recently elected.

Sharhan expressed readiness to co-operate with the union's council in the interest of work and staff of the ministry and suggested naming of a union committee to hold regular contacts with senior officials of the ministry on all that is of interest to the employees.

The official also urged co-operation between the union and the administration and hoped the trade union would encourage employees of the ministry on attending training courses aimed at upgrading their performance level.

Abdullah meets

KUWAIT, Jan 23, (Kuna): Deputy premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber yesterday received at his office Zbyn Al Zuhair and Dr. Jasim Al Khalaf.

He also received Kuwait's ambassadors to Yugoslavia, Jordan and Saudi Arabia Issa Al-Jumaid, Mohammed Sulaiman Al-Murshid and Abdul Rahman Al-Saleh respectively, in addition to Kuwait's Consul in Bombay, India, Faisal Al-Issa.

Korean envoy

KUWAIT, Jan 23, (Kuna): State Minister for Services Issa Mohammed Al-Mazidi today received South Korean Ambassador to Kuwait Byung Yong Kim.

Discussions covered means of bolstering bilateral co-operation between the two countries.



Science club designs robot

Members of the physics department at Kuwait Science Club have designed two apparatuses, the first of which is a robot which is based on electronic circuits connected with a computer and the second is a apparatus for collecting solar energy. Picture shows some members of the physics department with the robot.

Land encroachments

Survey dept to ensure abidance to space code

THE director of the Land Survey Department at Kuwait Municipality Jassem Khalifa Al-Jassem has emphasised the success of the computerisation of incoming transactions follow-up system which was officially commissioned early last January.

He told a local daily that the department provided field remarks on the survey plan of a certain building, and that staff surveyors would carry out periodical supervision on buildings to ensure that the proprietor abided by the designated space area, in line with the official building documents.

There were quite a few buildings that violated the designated space areas and boundaries, and proprietors would have to submit a written pledge to abide by the stipulated space area upon demolition and reconstruction of the building, Jassem said.

He added that the space area marking procedures took three days, which would initially focus on determining the number of violations perpetrated in the area in question, on which a special report would be prepared and submitted to the planning department whose personnel would go out to inspect the real estate location. This is to ensure that there was no future projects intended in the area that may conflict with the proposed building activities.

Procedures

Marking procedures must last three days unless there were violations involving area encroachment, which would entail a re-survey operation, Jassem said.

He revealed that the department's intention to compact all procedures into one stage through computer aid, whereby to forecast potential obstacles and problems that could hinder the processing of clients' transactions, besides operating a special staff supervision system to follow up their performance and detect their mistakes.

He said the occasional delay of transactions was caused by the need to collect data from different agencies which increased pressure on the department staff and slowed down transaction processing.

due to the routine incoming/outgoing mail.

The department is currently considering new code numbers to real estate which would include the area numbering for easy reference purposes.

He pointed out that the Codans project was the first of its kind in the world which basically involved the development of maps, collection of drawings from various service ministries and feed a central data bank to be classified and regulated on the basis of a unified system. This would be regularly updated through a computer network linking all relevant service ministries to the bank by means of on-line computer terminals.

He said that a national geodesic network has been constructed for use through satellite frequency received by land stations, which would enable those in charge to establish the co-ordinates of certain main geographical points and technically revise with minimum errors.

He said that the project would enable the generation of real estate topographical and service maps for various user-ministries.

Pressure

The head of the follow-up division Mohammad Al Abdullah has said that the division's basic function was to develop the department's work performance, facilitate the processing of transactions and alleviate pressure on clients during official working hours.

He said that the division followed up the processing of transactions through the various divisions involved; a job otherwise done by the client, pointing out that all complaints published in local newspapers of delayed transactions were unfounded. Clients were urged to make phoned-in inquiries to follow up their transactions and learn if they were ready or not.

Division staff pay special attention to transactions earmarked as "urgent," and 6,330 transactions were processed and despatched last year compared to 7,079 received, Jassem said.



PAAET training course

A Trainee preparation course organised by the training sector at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training ended Sunday at the training centre at Dasman Complex in Sharq. The conclusion ceremony was patronised by the director of the Training Planning and Co-ordination Department at the authority, Mansour Al Meshal.

On the occasion, Meshal delivered a speech stressing the authority's keenness towards upgrading

administrative development through training courses in all fields.

Meshal distributed graduation certificates to 19 graduates from the Ministry of Public Health, the General Fire Department, Defence Ministry, Public Authority for Civil Information, Ministry of Commerce, Zakat House, and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

Loss from zoonotic diseases \$600m pa

THE deputy chairman of the Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority Ahmed Al Naqeeb opened a symposium on zoonotic diseases, organised by the authority in co-operation with the regional programme for animal health and production in the Middle and Far East.

Naqeeb stressed the hazards of shared human-animal diseases and said that the awareness by the government of Kuwait of this issue resulted in the development of the anti-Brucellosis projects among sheep, goats and cows — a project which received profuse government funding. Such funding has been justified as seen from the returns on the social economic and health levels, the official said.

The director of the Regional Animal Health and Production Project Dr Farouq Al Dousqi then delivered a speech in which he said that more than 150 diseases were found to co-exist between humans and animals, which caused huge economic and social losses.

He said that the increase in these diseases in the Middle East areas had led to the rise of the related death toll and affected animal health and production.

He said that the spread of these diseases increased, as indicated by the Food and Agricultural Organisations, in a number of countries in North and South America where 175,000 individuals were under treatment from rabies.

Losses

He added that the estimated economic losses of animal-related diseases such as rabies, consumption and infectious abortion reached \$600 million annually.

He pointed out that the symposium was aimed at clarifying the scientific nature of shared human-animal diseases with considerable emphasis on infectious abortion and related economic and social repercussions.

The director of the Animal Health Department Dr Sultan Ahmad Al Sultan said that the symposium was also aimed at conducting dialogues among a group of scientists and researchers to highlight the latest achievements of modern science on this problem.

He said that the symposium comprised seven sessions, held through a four-day period, and contained lectures on the subject from representatives of 14 countries.

Meanwhile the chairman of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Dujaili Al Sabah conferred with the president and members of the city governorate's council.

Following the exchange, Sheikh Dujaili said he has reviewed with his guests details of the authority's planned projects in the city proper, particularly those connected to afforestation and landscaping.

The official added that he had received similar suggestions from the president and members of the governorate's council about the need to expand green patches around the city.

New stamps

THE Ministry of Communications, in a press release has announced the following programme of postage stamp issues in Kuwait during the year 1990:

The 29th anniversary of the National Day — 25.2.1990.

World Meteorological Day — 23.3.1990.

World Health Day — 7.4.1990.

International Literacy Year — 1.9.1990.

The Thirtieth Anniversary of OPEC — 14.9.1990.

Arab Housing Day — 2.10.1990.

The Annual Greenery Week Celebration — 15.10.1990.

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people — 29.11.1990.

A postal notice will be issued in due course for any other commemorative stamps issues.

From the courts

KD20,000 compensation to parents of lost baby

A COURT ordered that KD 20,000 be paid as compensation to the parents of a new born baby who mysteriously disappeared from the Maternity Hospital.

A citizen Abdullah Al Rasheed, the father of the baby, told the court that his son was stolen just 24 hours after being born on 22nd July last year and placed the onus of responsibility on the hospital where the child was delivered.

He added that the estimated economic losses of animal-related diseases such as rabies, consumption and infectious abortion reached \$600 million annually.

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Deportation ban

THE Higher Court of Appeal has banned the penalty of deportation for people sentenced to payment of fines, under article 79 of the penal code which stated that the deportation penalty is applicable to non-Kuwaitis sentenced to jail terms and not to fines.

The court was examining a case in which two people were charged of smuggling liquor for trading purposes and a third was charged of smuggling and possession of liquor.

The court of first instance had earlier sentenced the first two suspects to two years in jail with hard labour and the third to a fine of KD 300. All three were ordered to pay a collective fine of KD 1500 and to be deported on completion of sentence.

The suspects appealed and the case was re-opened by the Court of Appeals which upheld the sentence ruled by the court of first instance but cancelled the deportation order.

Juvenile thief

A KUWAITI juvenile identified as 14-year-old Jaber A. was apprehended by detectives of Hawali Governorate while driving a stolen car at the Mishref desert, interior ministry's public relations department said.

Investigations have so far revealed that the accused had previously stolen several cars and led police to the areas where he had abandoned them.

Investigations are under progress to trace the owners of these stolen cars and also to determine if the accused is connected with other similar thefts.

Omariya residents bemoan conditions

Rodents a menace

A LOCAL daily has filed the following report of an interview conducted with citizens of the Omariya district.

Sulaiman Al Fraji has said that his house is located close to the zoo and that all residents living close to him including himself complained of the large number of rodents filling the area.

He said that the clinic in the area was short of a dental service and there is a marked lack of police patrols in the area as there is no police station.

Mohammed Abdullah Al Hamad said that the area is filled with bachelors, mostly Asians who lived in rented annexes close to families and were a source of nuisance.

He said that 15 Asians lived in one annex close to his house, while the minimum number of Asians to live in rented annexes varied from 4 to six, and this caused great troubles during weekends or official holidays as these people would seek to establish relations with housemaids.

He pointed out that several complaints were brought to the local governor of the districts and cases were registered against Asian couples at the Rabyah police station.

He stressed the importance of intensifying police patrols at night, a demand of all residents which he hoped the director of the Farwaniya governorate would meet, although no cases of thefts had been reported.

Another resident complained from the lack of puncture repair shops or auto-electrical service, adding that there were too many road bumps in the area which really were annoying.

Ahmad Saleem said that the streets near his house were clean; thanks to the regular refuse-collecting municipality staff. However, he said that prices at the local co-op were mostly high, and sometimes certain items were not available.

Another resident stressed the need for setting up a communal hall, and for strict operation of the night-shift system at the local clinic to organise the outpatient visits after midnight.

Keralites join hands to tackle complaints

GULF Keralites United Forum UAE, representing the amateur organisation of the Keralites in the UAE and United Malayes Organisations (UMO) Kuwait representing Malayes organisations in Kuwait have decided to submit a joint memorandum to the Government of India for the redressal for their long standing grievances. The memorandum would focus on the following:

— Demand for upgrading of Trivandrum airport to international airport.

— Providing more Indian Airlines/Vayudoot flights from the rest of the country, especially Bombay to Calicut, Cochin and Trivandrum.

— Reducing the exorbitantly high air-fare now charged on direct flights to Trivandrum by Air India.

— Air-India's arbitrary withdrawal of hotel accommodation facilities in Bombay for transit passengers from some Gulf countries.

— Reduction of the high increase in foreign travel tax and exempting minors and dependents from the payment of this tax.

— Providing higher educational facilities to NRI students from Gulf countries.

— Relaxation of custom duty and regulations.

— Rehabilitation of Gulf returnees in India.

The two organisations call the Government of India to act on the various proposals submitted on above matters by the Govt. of Kerala.

Rangeland conference

KUWAIT will host the 2nd international conference on rangeland management in the Arab Gulf during the period from March 3 to 6, within the framework of efforts exerted to protect rangelands in the GCC countries.

A local daily said that the conference to be held at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research is aimed at following and evaluating the recommendations so far implemented of those adopted by the 1st international conference on rangeland management, discuss implementation obstructions and exchange views and expertise between specialists in the field from various Arab and international countries.

The conference will reportedly discuss expertise in the field of developing rangelands and arid areas in the GCC, besides investigating and selecting the most suitable modern technology and related applications in rangeland management, while drawing up projections and strategies for future uses and optimum exploitation of rangelands in the region.

مكتبة الأمل

Economic proposals realisation in 6 months

It said such an awkward act could not be initiated by anyone who loves his country and loyal to his people and its soil by all means.

A government official said the Zanzibaris were free to settle anywhere, while an Omani diplomat in Zanzibar said the consulate was not limiting those seeking to settle in Oman.

"We say to those who were behind yesterday's events if you meant to close the doors of dialogue before they are opened ... the people of Kuwait who believe in dialogue as a means of life and in consultation as a way for popular participation will not enable them to reach what they aimed at, because, to them, the homeland is precious than anything else," the paper said.

"Let us go through that door and listen to more opinions, presumably there is some talk to be conducted behind closed

"Let us keep our country away from the unknown in order not to lose control on issues that start easy and will be difficult to settle," the paper concluded.

Abdullah Al Ghaith indicated that current living standards are relatively high. He works at two jobs but, is not able to save. He said that due to inflation it is easy to run out of money at the end of the month particularly during the beginning of the school year.

He believes that officials should study the situation in order to increase salaries. He added that negligence towards controlling market prices have led to a large increase in prices.

Al Anbari made his remarks following a meeting with the secretary-general following the UN chief's visit to Moscow earlier this week.

KUWAIT, Jan. 23, (Kuna): Implementation of recommendations approved by the Council of Ministers to reinvigorate the local economy are likely to be completed in six months, Central Bank Governor Sheikh Salem Abdulaziz Al Sabah said today.

Sheikh Salem, who is head of a follow-up committee entrusted with implementing the new programme, told a local newspaper in a lengthy interview that it "would be a great accomplishment if we could carry out all economic recommendations in six months."

Specialised teams, the governor said, have finished translating the recommendations into measures for implementation by various ministries and have determined the departments which will have the responsibility for implementing the new measures.

He said that commercial banks have been asked to study the proposal and respond to the Central Bank. The plan, he said, instructs the banks to provide housing loans for citizens with low interest rates on the assumption that the government will pay the rest of the interest instead of the citizen.

The new plan would attract citizens to apply for housing loans from commercial banks instead of waiting for loans from the government-owned Savings and Credit Bank, a bank primarily established to provide loans for qualified citizens.

He stated that more parking lots will be established in the future at several areas. Qoud expressed hopes that the company will complete a special project in issuing a special unified card to all parking lots run by the company in the coming days.

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He believes that officials should study the situation in order to increase salaries. He added that negligence towards controlling market prices have led to a large increase in prices.

AMBASSADOR of Palestine and office Awni Battash has thanked Minister and Foreign Minister Ahmad for patronising the charity opened at the Exhibits Ground in to 30th of this month. He also thanked Arab and Kuwaiti businessmen as well as contributed to the charity bazaar. Arabs and Muslims in Kuwait.

materials.

Woman and

paramour fine

He said that around 3.00 am,

He said he called his mother to witness this sordid act of adultery committed under his very roof. When the mother arrived, she

Based on this evidence, the court convicted both accused.

A student delegation from the student council of Abdul Lateef Al Shamlan Intermediate School for boys visited the General Traffic Department and toured a number of departments, sections and attachments there.

The student delegation also visited the permanent traffic exhibition where they attended a lecture on traffic.

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He said he called his mother to witness this sordid act of adultery committed under his very roof. When the mother arrived, she

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

BEWARE of all enterprises that require new clothes — Henry David Thoreau, US writer (1817-1862).

OPINION

We are behind you, O Amir

O PATIENT Jaber Al Ahmed, the Amir of Kuwait! We beg your forbearance and sincerely hope that trying circumstances will not exhaust the level of patience and the high-level of pragmatism you have continually displayed, to avert crises.

Assuredly, Kuwait and her loyal children will never waver in their loyalty or deviate from their traditional feelings of one family towards those who lead the ship safely through turbulent and troubled seas.

We, the children of Kuwait are indeed most appreciative and gratified with your efforts that have built the economy of Kuwait brick by brick and cemented the effort with the true solidarity of the people.

You have refused to be equated with rulers who sometimes deal with their people in a manner that implied that their voice and participation were of little consequence, and with other leaders who after sucking the nectar leave their countries empty and poor.

We beg your pardon Jaber Al Ahmed, the patient, the strong leader in his principles and with sublime characteristics, is some acts have transgressed your modesty. Our faithfulness should stem from our recollection of forbearance and your great morals that emanated from the Islamic religion and the cause of Arabism.

We very vividly recollect since the era when you were the Governor of Al Ahmadi, the Minister of Finance, the Crown Prince and Premier and your keenness as the ruler of the country towards the interests of your country. We are aware that Kuwait and its people still constitute for you the pupil of the eye.

Your Highness' dedication and economic directives towards addressing the economic problems that beset the country have been amply testified to in the international reports which confirmed that Kuwait had carved for itself "an economic niche" — even when other countries throughout the world were suffering economic chaos, debt and unemployment.

Coupled with the economic achievement, you had contained the security issue with the highest level of diplomacy. Poignantly here the world had marvelled at your patience in issuing the minimum security instructions immediately after the assassination attempt on your life. Such fatherly concern for the well-being of citizens is indeed a hallmark for Kuwait and its Amir.

In your opinion O Jaber Al Ahmed, the funds of the state should be saved for future generations. The people have every confidence in your march to prosperity and will remain sincere and loyal to your visions for the State of Kuwait. They stand united with you against your enemies.

We beg your pardon, the Amir of our state, if even for a moment you doubted that loyalty had disappeared as in your opinion, affairs should be conducted within the framework of tradition and away from rituals and isolation.

We shall always remember that the building up of the country was always paramount in your mind and that you had continually been warning us against the ploys of the devil. We will always remember that you had piloted the Kuwaiti ship through the most hazardous waters and brought us to the coast of safety.

Your country, with all its conventions, customs and various modalities of behaviour, laws and constitutions were honestly handled by you and the sole conflict even with your closest people is how to protect and enhance the sense of honesty and save funds of the country. This is amply demonstrated in your refusal to show generosity at the expense of the country's funds and wealth.

We are all aware that you have always given a patient hearing and your valuable time to listen to everybody and disseminating the good from the bad.

We shall never forget your dedication to affairs of state — people go abroad for recreation and you remain here to be vigilant to address the day-to-day issues of our beloved country — all through winter, summer, spring and fall.

Rest assured, Jaber Al Ahmed, the Amir of the Pearl in our Arab Gulf that the citizens of your country are absolutely faithful and loyal and will always remember and uphold your ideals and recollect that your dress is white as that of the snow.

Ahmad Al Jarallah

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By Henry Brandon

Bush concerned about Soviet events
Gorbachev in serious trouble

WASHINGTON: President Bush, according to some of his close advisers, is increasingly concerned that Mikhail Gorbachev is in serious trouble. Signs are mounting that the Soviet leader's honeymoon he has enjoyed during his first three years in office is petering out and that perestroika, the key to his reforms, has bogged down. The economy has failed to improve, dissatisfaction among the people is rising and criticism mounting.

No doubt, the failure of his mission to Lithuania and the ferocity of the civil war between Azerbaijanis and Armenians are undermining his authority, but it is the failure of perestroika that is weakening his leadership. And there are signs, I learn from well informed quarters, that opposition to him in the Politburo and the Central Committee is beginning to make itself felt.

Resistance

I am told that it is because of the resistance he is encountering the weekly meetings of the Politburo are now rarely held, and that the same applies to the sub-committee meetings of the Central Committee. Increasingly, he is said to rely on the Congress of the People's Deputies where he holds a clear majority for decisions. By-passing the Politburo and the Central Committee is bound to create dissatisfaction, even hostility. It is also an indication of a decline in his authority.

At the Malta summit meeting Bush made it clear to Gorbachev that he very much wishes him to succeed and the latter admitted that he had indeed become persuaded that this was the President's intention.

The President's Soviet experts are therefore asking themselves whether perestroika could still provide the essential changes Gorbachev has been hoping for or whether it will prove to be not much more than an experiment. It has not, so far, produced the kind of metamorphosis people had expected. It is also becoming obvious that Gorbachev has been introducing various institutional changes without a clear governing strategy, no clear direction. Instead, the impression is growing among the President's Sovietologists that policies are being made up from week to week.

Declining

Another sign of Gorbachev's declining authority is that there is no major power base he can count on for support and loyalty. It certainly is not the Communist Party whose political role he has been cutting down, it is not the military thousands of whom find themselves without jobs and forced to seek menial employment to support themselves in the wake of arms control agreements and the need to reduce the costs of the armed forces. And he cannot rely on the KGB, the secret police, whose powers he has severely limited.

It is true that there is no obvious successor standing in the wings to take Gorbachev's place. But crisis situations can suddenly churn up a new leader. Boris Yeltsin, if no one else, has the obvious desire to succeed Gorbachev. He is the former chief of the Moscow Communist Party who has criticised Gorbachev for not being radical enough. He told an interviewer last week that "five years should be enough for a president to prove his worth," implying that Gorbachev has failed to do so. He also said that there is "a great danger of violence unless further radical reforms are taken" and that "the reform effort had reached the most decisive and difficult phase. Yeltsin is a leader of the Democratic Front which he says is not a political party. It is part of an opposition group that includes one that is called Shield whose members are the disgruntled among the military.

Successor

I have also heard the present Prime Minister Ryzhkov mentioned as a possible successor. He does not have Gorbachev's leadership qualities, but he stands a good deal further to the right. At least verbally he is more confrontational in his approach to the West, and especially to the United States. He might well seek to rekindle the cold war in order to regain the controls the government lost under glasnost.

Reforms buoy monarchy hopes

VIENNA, Austria, (AP): The chants of Eastern Europe's pro-democracy protesters as they ousted former communist overlords have been sweet music to members of long-deposed royal families.

The revolutionary changes of the past year have buoyed their hopes, nurtured during decades in exile, to reclaim their national stature and perhaps even return to thrones. Stuffed under decades of communist rule, their aspirations have now even gained some support at home. When a crowd spotted Otto von Hapsburg on a street in Budapest, Hungary, in April, it chanted "Long live the king."

Romania's King Michael I waits for his people's call, and Albania's King Leka I would like to come home from South Africa.

Indeed, Von Hapsburg and King Michael appear to have a chance at public office — if only honorary — in their homelands.

The prospect of restoring royalty, of course, is unthinkable to many citizens of Eastern Europe. Monarchists seem to be in the minority.

Hungary plans to establish a multiparty democracy this year, and Romania has tentative plans to follow suit.

In Romania, even the word "dynasty" smacks of repression, reminding most people of the clan of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. He ruled like an absolute monarch, installing family members in key positions.

Bernad Pocselt, Von Hapsburg's spokesman, seemed to agree with public speculation that his boss might stand a chance to become Hungary's state president this year.

"All options are being kept open, and the matter is again under review," Pocselt said in a recent telephone interview from Strasbourg, France. Hapsburg, the eldest son of King Karl VI of Hungary — also Emperor Karl I of Austria — is now a Bavarian deputy in the European Parliament.

After the collapse of the Austrian empire, the Hapsburg family had to leave Austria and settled in Switzerland. Two attempts by Otto's father to restore the kingdom in Hungary in 1918 and 1920 failed.

During his first official visit to Hungary in February, Von Hapsburg, who is fluent in Hungarian, received a hero's welcome.

During the April visit, thousands of Hungarians cheered him again to chants of "Long live the king," as Otto and members of his family emerged from a church following a requiem for his mother Zita, the last queen of Hungary, who died in March at age 96.

In Romania, the return of 67-year-old King Michael is seen by some Romanians as a guarantee that the Communist Party will never again come to power.



Apart from Gorbachev's future, the Bush administration, while it applauds the democratisation of Eastern Europe, is getting worried that after the jubiliations a backlash may occur that could produce serious internal conflicts and threaten the survival of the fledgling liberal governments.

It could well happen in Poland where the new government introduced drastic economic restraints and the coal miners are already on strike. It could also happen in East Germany where the massive exodus to West Germany is a form of protest against the inferior living conditions in East Germany. The East German government cannot afford to lose the younger people who are well educated and ready to pull their professional weight.

Neither East Germany, Romania nor Bulgaria have as yet functioning governments able to take the drastic decision necessary for their survival. In those countries the Communist Parties are still fighting a rear-guard action to keep themselves in power, only in Czechoslovakia and Hungary the new governments seem to be in control of the transition to democratisation.

However, all the East European governments will have to overcome serious economic problems without the kind of economic aid they need. It is not surprising therefore that there is general agreement among the experts that a backlash could seriously mar the dawn of democracy in Eastern Europe.

Apart from the exodus of East Germans to West Germany there is another exodus in progress that is the only beginning to catch world attention. It is the exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union. Three months ago, when I visited the Soviet Union, I was told that something of a panic about the growth of anti-

Semitism was spreading among Soviet Jews. It seems surprising and unexpected in view of the new tolerance toward religion under Gorbachev who allowed churches and synagogues that had been locked for sixty or more years to be opened. But the Jews are said to be fearful that if Gorbachev falls, some sort of new programs may occur. There is the Pamyet Party which is openly anti-Semitic, but, I was told, is relatively small and internally divided. Their members are aggressive, reminiscent of the German Nazis.

There are also the nationalists who aim at spiritual and national unity in pure Russian orthodox terms. They live in the countryside in medieval Russian peasant style; they want to remain uncontaminated by contact with Westerners. They are not only hostile to the system of government, but in particular to Gorbachev's. Their cult hero is the novelist Rasputin, who lives in far away Irkutsk in Siberia. He and good many of his followers are also openly anti-Semitic because they believe that the Jews are a blight on Russianness and, in view of their limited number, are far too influential, politically and culturally. At any rate, last year more than fifty thousand Jews left the Soviet Union and, judging by the exit visa applications, more will leave in 1990.

The Shamir government in Israel is very keen on this new influx from the Soviet Union because those Russian Jews are said to be quite conservative in their outlook and may well reinforce the Likud Party and its hardline policies. This mass exodus will lead to the lifting of US trade restrictions, imposed under the Jackson-Vanik amendment, and give the Soviet Union a better chance to sell its exports in the United States.

Art Buchwald

Holiday conversations now differ

I DON'T know if the nuclear family has arrived or not — but holiday conversations are very different from days gone by. When relatives used to meet at Christmas, it was to exchange news about each other. Nowadays they give bulletins about strangers.

"Oprah Winfrey has lost two more pounds," cousin Alice announced. "Pass it on."

"I read in Parade magazine that she gained three," her sister Edith countered.

"Well, according to the National Enquirer, every time Oprah gains weight, they adjust the camera lens so that she looks thin," Waldo, an in-law, declared.

Joanie, my sister-in-law, was ready to drop an Atom bomb. "I heard that Elizabeth Taylor eats a cheesecake every night. Ho, ho, ho!"

Hear

"Where did you hear that?" I wanted to know. "It was in the Star, which is sold in supermarkets — so it only prints the truth."

"Sometimes the Stars makes things up," Aunt Fusty told her. "I have a rule that if the Stars prints something and the National Enquirer doesn't confirm it, then it's suspect."

I tried to get the family on track by asking, "What's going on in your homes?"

Cousin Sue said, "Zsa Zsa Gabor is 72 years old. They found a schoolmate of hers to confirm it. There's also a rumour that she wants to do all of her community service at Elizabeth Arden's."

Spluttered

I spluttered, "Enough already. Don't you people have news from your own families? We haven't seen each other for a year."

There was silence. "Leona Helmsley stands to make a lot of new friends," cousin Paul continued.

"We all know that," cousin Alice said. "It was on Entertainment Tonight."

My niece, Maureen, added, "Jane Pauley has vowed to reclaim her couch from the 'Today' show."

"Do you think that NBC pushed her out the window?" cousin Edith wondered.

"US magazine reported that the NC executives had no choice. They had to get rid of her because she was 39 years old."

I tried again.

"So is anyone in this family graduating? Is anybody getting married, and can we expect any babies this year?" Everyone ignored me.

Ultimatum

Cousin Pat said, "Princess Di gave Prince Charles an ultimatum. It was either her or polo. He's now sleeping in the stable with his horse."

"Where did you read that?" cousin Edith wanted to know.

"I didn't read it," Pat replied. "I made it up just so that I could join in this conversation."

I decided on one final attempt. "Why is this family so fascinated by strangers?"

"Because they are more interesting than we are," cousin Edith declared. "Do you know anyone in this room who can match the charisma of Nancy Reagan?"

"My brother-in-law said, 'Donald Trump sleeps with a night light.'"

"How do you know that?" I asked.

"I stopped by the store before I came here. I read the whole story in the World, which was displayed on a newspaper rack next to the canned tomatoes."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Letters to the editor

Quiet contributor

SIR: This refers to Roybey's letter, Arab Times 18-19, in which he had asked a few funny questions about the social service record of Mr John Manduran. The writer had conveniently forgotten the fact that it was the organisational responsibility of UMO, for that matter any organisation which depends on public contribution for its programmes, to answer honest doubts expressed by the members of the public. In my opinion all the questions were genuine and based on sound reasoning.

Mr Manduran's letter was conceived by the idea that charity should not be organised for publicity and personal fame and to air his concern, he need not be a social worker. Though the general public is least interested in such type of silly questions, I have to answer them reluctantly.

As stated in the letter, Mr Manduran did not support the vegetable price rise, in his press release, in fact, he only advised his fellow countrymen not to resort to organised protest or boycotts called by some perverted Indians. He further stated that such unreasonable price rise, if any, should be reported to the legitimate authority of such matters. Such a bold and timely advice can come only from a well meaning Indian. Some people were reported to have even distributed leaflets calling for boycott of legally imported Indian vegetables and Mr Manduran's press release should be appreciated as bold step towards maintaining the fair name and interest of all Indians working in Kuwait.

When Al laid off a passenger family, Mr Manduran took up the issue and rejected the offer of personal discussion by the Al management and thereby got a public apology from the local Al through the columns of AT. Further he got the whole episode investigated at the order of the then Union Minister of Civil Aviation. No passenger is heard to have been laid off ever since. This he did not do under the banner of any organisation.

Though not a businessman, he is known to have spent a substantial amount of his salary for charity purposes. Spending thousands of rupees, he solved the water scarcity problem of a charity hospital working in the rural area of Chittar, Kerala. He financed from his hard-earned salary for the complete water supply system viz. water source, overhead and storage tank, power and distribution network. To his close friends it is known that he is working on a charity trust with an initial deposit of Rs 100,000 in his grandfather's name. He is also known to have done substantial financial help to the charity programme of his church, namely, giving long term interest-free deposits and placing his Bombay apartment rent-free for two years at the disposal of the church.

He is also a founder member and first treasurer of the United Indian School and left it for well-known reasons, leaving a substantial amount behind. These are only a few examples of quiet charity work which I am forced to divulge because of the cheap methods resorted to by a group of people whose intentions have been questioned by him. When the UMO organised the blood donation campaign, he was there to render his professional assistance though he never had been a member of the UMO. This all suggests that his letter was written in good faith and I strongly believe that the UMO has to give an answer to the questions. To accept mistakes is not a defeat but a step towards victory!

P.V. Krishnan, Safat.

Football tourney

SIR: The football match on Jan 26, is much talked about and the arrangements seem to be like an Olympic-style organisation according to one local daily. Actually here the Indian community is encouraging sports and arts activities at their level best at all times. Of course the organising of such tournaments is not so easy but some organisations with the help of local sponsor do their best to make that ventures a great success. But over the years our embassy or the newspaper never give any hand for such activities. Now within a day of the game all sports lovers are in a dilemma.

All the players are local. So many business firms are sponsoring them. Making a sound financing in the name of game is an aim. Where will the profit go? Who selects the players and organisers?

On inquiry it became known to me that a man in a local daily and an officer in the embassy were behind these games. Both are very good kingmakers in their respective fields. Before the games were limited to several organisations but now they started to play the game with the all Indian community in town.

John Paul, Safat.

Personal fame

SIR: The allegations, that the present officials of the UMO nurse an irrepressible passion for personal fame, cannot be dismissed very easily. Some time ago the gen secretary of the organisation published his personal profile with photographs in an exclusive women magazine namely "Vanitha, meaning 'Women'." The unattached neat shaved bob-cut facsimile of a femme fatale naturally aroused no suspicion of questionable femininity but sooner or later the anecdote brought out the joke of it.

"Three cheers to the hero of the feminine magazine."

Mrs Sathya Bhama, Safat.

Also taboo

SIR: This is in reference to Mr Muhammed Rafique's letter (AT 20/1/90) headlined "Axe Twilight Zone."

I agree with Mr Rafique's view and appreciate his high respect for Islam. At the same time I object to his suggestions for "magical" series. As a good Muslim shouldn't he be aware that magic is also forbidden in Islam?

A. Qazi, Sabahlah.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

مكتبة الأمل

Assad's go-ahead for Hirawi to oust Aoun

Accord to disarm militias

DAMASCUS, Jan 23, (Reuters): President Hafez Al Assad declared today that the Syrian army is ready any time to help break General Michel Aoun's hold on Lebanon's Christian enclave.

But Lebanese President Elias Hrawi indicated no attack on Aoun was imminent.

He told reporters he aims for the moment to build up his own strength and create an "oasis of peace" in Muslim West Beirut, which he already controls with the help of Syrian troops.

Hrawi, Prime Minister Selim Hoss and parliamentary Speaker Hussein Hossin spent three days in Damascus for their first talks with Assad since an internationally-recognized Lebanese presidency was reborn in November after an interregnum of more than a year.

According to a senior Lebanese politician, plans agreed at the Damascus talks envisage the disarming in Muslim West Beirut of sectarian militias which have flourished in almost 15 years of civil war.

The main groups are the Druze Progressive Socialist Party and the Shiite Muslim Amal, both backed by Syria, and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God).

Sources close to the meeting said strengthened Lebanese troops and police would replace Syrians in key posts in West Beirut and man joint positions with Syrians around the enclave controlled by Aoun.

Assad told reporters "we have made a decision to respond to any request by the Lebanese legitimate authorities without any reservation on any demand. We offer our help in any field."

"I say clearly, if the Lebanese legitimacy wants to use Syrian military force to extend its authority, we will respond."

"And if it were decided that the Lebanese army would carry out the mission with the backing of Syrian forces, we would also respond," he added.

Assad said Syria was committed to implement the Arab peace plan which stipulates Syrian troops would withdraw from West Beirut two years after the adoption of reforms increasing the political power of the Muslim majority.

"We will work with our brothers in Lebanon to enable the legitimate Lebanese authority take control and carry out its duties on all Lebanese territory as soon as possible," the Syrian president said.

"Be sure that this is what we want. The Syrian army has other duties."

"We would rather that the Syrian army did not deal directly

Rabin sets conditions for Lebanon pullout

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon, Jan 23, (Reuters): Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said today his country would leave south Lebanon if Syrian and Palestinian forces withdrew from the country.

"If the Syrians and the Palestinians pull out from Lebanon we will leave too. We have neither ambitions in Lebanon nor problems with the Lebanese border," Rabin said.

He was talking to reporters during a visit to Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon, two days after Palestinian fighters killed the highest-ranking Israeli officer in Lebanon since 1985.

"Israel will co-operate with anyone in Lebanon to pull out the foreign forces from the country and especially from Beirut," Rabin said.

Some 40,000 Syrian troops control up to 70 per cent of Lebanon's territory and thousands of Palestinians and Iranian gunmen have military bases in the country.

About 800 Israeli troops and the 2,500-strong South Lebanon Army militia patrol the security zone to prevent pro-Iranian and Palestinian attacks on Israel's northern border.

"We hope the Lebanese will be free again and unite against all the foreigners who want to influence Lebanon to achieve their own goals. It is time the Lebanese reach an understanding," Rabin said.

He said the killing on Sunday of Colonel Yitzhak Rahimov, 40, in the border strip "will not do good but will disturb life in Lebanon."

The Fatah Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal said its fighters killed Rahimov in a clash near Yaroun village, one km (half a mile) north of the Israeli border.

An Israeli Army spokesman said yesterday the army shot dead three Arab fighters hours after they killed Rahimov who served as a liaison officer to the SLA in the zone.

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 with the declared aim of driving Palestinian fighters out. It withdrew the bulk of its troops in 1985 after setting up the security zone.

with the daily affairs of Lebanese citizens, or of Syrians.

Hirawi told the same news conference he would never consent to partition of Lebanon and his government had the right to oust Aoun by force if it had to.

He described his talks with Assad as very successful and said a security plan for West Beirut would be implemented soon making the Muslim side "oasis of peace for everybody."

The Lebanese press went on strike today to protest restrictions clamped by Aoun on the media in the Christian enclave.

The Press Association, which called the one-day strike, said newspapers will not publish Wednesday to show solidarity with three "sister publications" that were forced shut by the de facto forces in East Beirut.

Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said today that Revolutionary Islam would defeat its opponents in Lebanon.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 23, (Reuters): Israel's armed forces Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron, has said the Soviet Union is gradually reducing the number of military advisers in Syria.

Both Syria and the Soviet embassy in Damascus denied Arab press reports last week that Moscow had withdrawn most of its estimated 2,500 advisers.

Shomron told an Israeli journalist:

"There is no exodus of Soviet advisers from Syria. The advisers are leaving bit-by-bit in accordance with a Soviet policy of reducing their forces in various parts of the world."

He said there were still more than 1,000 advisers in Syria.

Shomron made the remark during a major army exercise in Israel's southern Negev Desert last week. He was quoted by

the daily Hadashot last Thursday.

Military sources said the army played it down at the time because Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin was visiting Washington and Israel did not want to say anything which could be seen as reducing the Syrian threat.

Rabin insisted in statements in the United States that Soviet military support for Syria and supplies of advanced Soviet weaponry continued unabated, despite

Kremlin calls for Damascus to abandon its goal of strategic parity with Israel.

He cited what he termed massive rearmament by Syria, Iraq and Libya as grounds for maintaining Washington's annual aid grant to the Jewish state at \$3 billion.

Republican Senator Bob Dole has proposed trimming the aid to make money available for emerging democracies in Eastern Europe.

US-Iran talks on hostages release

WASHINGTON, Jan 23, (KUNA): In a private meeting two weeks ago, sanctioned by Secretary of State James Baker, official Iranian government representatives offered to assist in arranging the release of US hostages held in Lebanon, it was claimed here today.

A newsletter that specialises in Middle East affairs called, "Middle East Policy Survey (MEPS)," said the meeting took place at The Hague between State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer and an unidentified Iranian representative described by US officials as a close confidant of Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Middle East Policy Survey reported that the Iranians opened the meeting by offering to aid in gaining the freedom of US hostages held by the Iranian-backed radical Lebanese Shiite organisation Hezbollah.

But according to the newsletter, Sofaer, "realising that he was on the verge of buying that same old carpet again, backed off from discussing the matter any further."

Senior US officials have become sufficiently alarmed at being caught negotiating over the hostages this way and they have decided to close down this channel of communications with Iran—at least temporarily, the newsletter said. Their fears stem from the scandal that gripped the Reagan administration during the Iran-Contra scandal.

Middle East Policy Survey further claimed in its report that Sofaer, in particular, comes in for criticism for being too eager to negotiate with Iran, "a man who is too glib, too willing to give in to Iranian demands."

It is this demonstrated eagerness which sent the wrong signals to Tehran, resulting in the Iranian offer," the fortnightly newsletter said.

Sofaer has reportedly been promoting what he calls a "global" solution to outstanding US-Iranian disputes.

These disputes include conflicting monetary claims dating back to the time of the Shah's overthrow as well as the more recent flap over US compensation for victims of the Iranian civilian airliner shot down by the USS Vincennes in 1988 during the height of American involvement in the Gulf war.



Lebanese Major Akal Hashem, brigade commander in the South Lebanon Army, wipes his tears during the funeral of colonel Yitzhak Rahimov. Col. Rahimov was killed on Sunday in a clash with gunmen in the village of Yaroun in the security zone in south Lebanon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Two Yemens to merge cabinets

SANAA, North Yemen, Jan 23, (Agencies): Leaders from North and South Yemen yesterday announced they would free all political prisoners immediately and flung the door open for their citizens to move freely between the two countries.

At the conclusion of a three-day meeting in Sanaa, Prime Minister Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani and Yassin Saeed No'man declared that citizens could now cross borders without hindrance.

They also said all political prisoners would be freed "with immediate effect" but gave no numbers.

The human rights organisation Amnesty International has reported that dozens of people are held as political prisoners in the two countries.

The two Yemens also agreed to merge their cabinets in one government of 33 ministers in part of efforts for the two states to re-unite, according to the official Sabaa news agency.

The announcement was made in a joint statement issued here at the end of a three-day meeting for the cabinets of the two Yemens.

Several economic, cultural and foreign policy agreements were endorsed in the meeting under a draft unity constitution signed by the two sides last November, the official agency said.

A joint military and security committee Monday ended a meeting in South Yemen's capital, Aden, with the signing of an accord under which the two Yemens will co-ordinate their security and military co-operation, the agency reported from Aden.

The ministerial meeting in Sanaa set up sub-committees to follow up on execution of the agreements and how to incorporate laws of the two states.

The two cabinets decided to meet in Aden next March to review progress of work, radio Sanaa reported.

PLO must name team for talks

Uprising leaders insist

TUNIS, Jan 23, (Agencies): No Palestinian from the Israeli-occupied Arab territories will take part in any delegation not drawn up by the PLO for even-odd Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo, leaders of the Palestinian uprising said today.

In a statement carried by the Palestinian news agency Wafa, the unified direction of the command of the intifada said "all Palestinian-Israeli dialogue must have an open agenda, take place under international supervision and must be conceived as a preliminary stage on the path of an international peace conference."

The statement by the underground leadership of the insurrection in the West Bank and Gaza Strip said flatly that only delegates named by the PLO would participate in any future talks with the Jewish state. No other Palestinians from the "interior" meaning the occupied territories, will take part, the statement said.

■ Egypt, welcoming Israeli Vice-Premier Shimon Peres to Cairo today, believes both parties in the Jewish state's coalition government are needed to advance the Middle East peace process, official sources said.

"To reach a durable peace settlement we need both the Labour and Likud partners (in government)," a Foreign Ministry official told Reuters just before the arrival of Peres, leader of the Labour Party.

The sources stressed that, by inviting Peres to Cairo, Egypt was not trying to bring down Israel's coalition government or to unseat Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the right-wing Likud bloc.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Essam Abdul Meguid, returning yesterday from a meeting with US Secretary of State James

Baker, said he was confident developments in Eastern Europe were not distracting Baker from his Middle East peace efforts.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday stopped briefly in Cairo for talks with a senior adviser of President Hosni Mubarak on the eve of a private visit by Peres. Peres was expected to meet with Mubarak and Meguid tomorrow.

In an interview published today in the semi-official Cairo daily Al-Ahram, Peres reaffirmed his commitment to the peace process and said his Labour Party would quit Israel's ruling coalition government if there is no headway.

Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers shot dead a fleeing Palestinian in the West Bank today and a suspected collaborator was found stabbed to death by fellow Palestinians, Arab and Israeli sources said.

Residents of Nablus said Mousa Izzat Sa'ad, 23, was shot seven times during a night chase by troops hunting for activists.

Israeli military sources said soldiers followed standard procedure, ordering him to halt and then firing in the air before shooting him.

They said the man was a leader of Palestinian "shock troops" implementing orders from organisers of the uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Two Palestinian teenagers were wounded by gunfire in subsequent clashes with troops in Nablus and nearby Askar refugee camp, hospital officials said. A one-year-old boy was taken to hospital after breathing tear-gas.

Palestinians said businesses shut down in Nablus and neighbouring refugee camps. Activists, many of them masked, burnt tyres and set up barricades.

Detainees kin meet Pohl

NICOSIA, Jan 23, (AP): The main Iranian opposition group said relatives of executed prisoners and political detainees met Monday with a visiting UN human rights delegation after staging a sit-in demanding to speak to the panel.

The Mujahedeen Khalq, or people's holy warriors, said the protesters demanded to meet with Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, the UN Human Rights Commission's special envoy who is visiting Iran.

He arrived Sunday heading a UN delegation to begin the first on-site investigation in Iran by the world body into alleged human rights violations.

The Mujahedeen said in a telex from its office in Baghdad that several hours after the sit-in started a group of relatives entered the UN office in Tehran to testify to the delegation.

It said the protest developed while the Iranian authorities "are arresting and intimidating the families of political prisoners and of those executed en masse... to prevent any protest action during the UN mission's stay in Iran."

The opposition group had reported in a telex received earlier in the day that the authorities were detaining the families of people tortured and executed to prevent them from testifying.

Tunis likely site: summit ends Maghreb union to have a HQ

TUNIS, Jan 23, (Reuters): North African leaders have agreed to give their Arab Maghreb Union a permanent secretariat and headquarters with Tunisia as the possible host, officials said today.

A two-day summit of the five union countries, which ends in Tunis today, will amend the treaty of Marrakesh to upgrade the status of the secretariat, summit spokesman Habib Boulares told reporters.

The original treaty, signed by Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania in February last year, says the secretariat is attached to the chairmanship, which moves from country to country every six months.

Boulares, who is Tunisia's information minister, said the amendment did not name the host country for the secretariat.

Other Maghreb officials said Tunis had been proposed and no country had raised objections.

Boulares said there were no plans to extend the mandate of the union chairman from six months to one year, as Tunisia had proposed during preparations for the summit.

Another amendment will increase the membership of the union's consultative council (parliament) from 50 to 100—20 members from each country.

Boulares said that during Tunisia's six-month chairmanship, which started on January 1, the union's experts would work on food security projects, a common Maghreb identity card,



PLO leader Yasser Arafat (front left) Algerian President Chadli Benjedid (back left) Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi shown during the meeting. (Reuters wirephoto)

freedom of movement and employment for people throughout the region and relations between the union and other regional organisations.

The union was set up largely in response to the European Economic Community's plans to create a single European market by 1993.



Ozal meets Perez

United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar (right) talks with Turgut Ozal, President of Turkey at the UN in New York. (Reuters wirephoto)

Sudan relief: Western aid agencies, saying Sudan's ruling junta is delaying vital food shipments to the war-torn south, plan to sidestep the military government and launch a major relief operation in rebel-held areas.

Foreign relief officials said on Tuesday the operation could cause an exodus of starving people into regions controlled by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and would boost the rebels' status locally and internationally. (Reuters)

De Cueller to meet Mubarak: Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Monday said he will meet "in the coming months" with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), to push forward the peace process in the western Sahara. (KUNA)

Meet raps US: A regional peace conference in South Yemen condemned the United States on Monday for its support of Israel and called for the withdrawal of all foreign fleets from the Red Sea, the Gulf and the Indian Ocean.

"America, Israel and South Africa represent an alliance that threatens peace and stability in the region," the closing statement said. (Reuters)

Quakes hit Tehran: Eight earthquakes measuring between four and 5.2 on the Richter Scale hit areas near Firuzkuh, east of Tehran, in the past 24 hours, the Iranian News Agency Irna said on Monday. (Reuters)

Weekly seized: Turkish police seized the latest issue of a political weekly on Monday because of articles about communism, Kurds and a conscientious objector, the editor said.

Tugral Eryilmaz said the weekly Sokak (street) was ordered seized by a state security court which found three articles in violation of Turkish law. (AP)

Polish sailors recount journey

WARSAW, Jan 23, (AP): Polish sailors returning today from 19 days as captives of Eritrean rebels say their 1,000-km trek from mountain ravines to desert hideouts started on the Red Sea with a shooting attack that turned their ship into a "cave."

"Afterwards, the guerrillas admitted that it was a mistake. They apologized to us," Capt. Andrzej Sikorski told the official Polish news agency Pao.

His freighter, the 8,137-tonne Boleslaw Brykawski, was attacked Jan 3 as it steamed from port Sudan to Massawa, a Red Sea port in Eritrea, by rebels who suspected it carried arms for Ethiopia's Marxist government.

The director of the Polish Ocean Lines told the sailors' families the ship carried no arms when it was attacked but had unloaded Polish "assault weapons and ammunition" in Somalia after legally registering the cargo at each port, according to a Jan 15 report in the Saturday Mlodziez newspaper.

The No. 3 man in the State Department, Robert M. Kimmitt, returned Saturday from a trip to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and India, three nations that have played a role in the conflict.

The trip by Kimmitt, undersecretary of state for political affairs, did not produce any breakthroughs or shifts in the US position, said the source.

Afghanistan is expected to be high on the agenda when Baker meets again with Shevardnadze on Feb 6-7 in Moscow, other officials said.

The Americans say the key to ending the

Ties with Prague to resume in weeks: Peres

PRAGUE, Jan 23, (Reuters): Israeli Vice-Premier Shimon Peres signed a trade agreement with Czechoslovakia yesterday and said the two countries would resume diplomatic relations within two or three weeks.

Peres, the first Israeli minister to visit Prague since ties were cut in 1967, signed the accord with Czechoslovak Finance Minister Václav Klaus.

He also met President Václav Havel who, he said, assured him that Czechoslovakia would stop providing arms to the Middle East and become "a provider of goodwill."

"I understood from the President that in a very short time we will renew diplomatic relations, probably in a matter of two or three weeks," Peres said, adding that it would take place during a visit to Prague by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

The two sides agreed economic co-operation projects in several fields, including agriculture, energy, telecommunications, computing, banking and tourism.

Peres dismissed earlier difficulties between the two countries over Czechoslovakia's position of respect for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

"I haven't come to act against the Palestinian people, we intend to live in peace," he said.



Peres (right) meets with speaker of the Czechoslovakian Parliament Alexander Dubcek during their meeting in Prague. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israeli-Ethiopian arms deal denied

WASHINGTON, Jan 23, (AP): The US State Department, disputing a published report, said yesterday it had no evidence that Israel was providing Ethiopia with cluster bombs.

The report, in Sunday's New York Times newspaper, quoted unnamed State Department officials and Defence Department officials. It followed a statement by former president Jimmy Carter a month ago that "one of our Middle East allies" had provided cluster bombs to the Ethiopian Air Force.

Asked about the Times report, Margaret Tutwiler, the State Department spokeswoman, said: "We have no clear physical evidence that Israel has provided such weapons to the government of Ethiopia."

Ethiopia's ambassador to Saudi Arabia has denied that his country received cluster bombs from Israel to use against Eritrean rebels and other guerrilla forces, the newspaper Arab News reported today.

Moscow likely to offer concessions on Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, Jan 23, (AP): The Soviet Union may be prepared to offer concessions to end the war in Afghanistan when Secretary of State James Baker visits Moscow next month, say administration officials and a US lawmaker.

The key to ending Soviet support for the Afghan leader Najib, and Kremlin officials hinted at such a shift during the Malta summit last month and the October meeting between Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, said a State Department source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The No. 3 man in the State Department, Robert M. Kimmitt, returned Saturday from a trip to Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and India, three nations that have played a role in the conflict.

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Afghanistan is expected to be high on the agenda when Baker meets again with Shevardnadze on Feb 6-7 in Moscow, other officials said.

The Americans say the key to ending the

Afghan civil war is curbing Soviet support for Najib, as well as free elections in Afghanistan, steps that a Congressman just back from Moscow says the Soviets are ready to take.

"Their position was that their world is on the edge of the abyss, that this is a powerful irritant in relations with the United States," said Congressman Charles Wilson, a Texas Democrat who recently returned from a week of talks in Moscow.

Senior Soviet officials said they were willing to stop shipping weapons to Najib if

the United States would cease arming the mujahedeen guerrillas, a formula the Soviets rejected a year ago when they began to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan, said Wilson.

Wilson met with Valentin Falin, a chief of the international department of the Soviet Communist Party, and with the chief Soviet envoy for Afghan affairs, Nikolai I. Kozrev.

"Their position was... in one hour you stop supplying the mujahedeen and we will stop supplying Najibullah," Wilson said.



Past and Present

Japanese film "Past and Present," will be shown in the two-week film festival organised as part of the Japan Week, opened on Saturday with Akira Kurosawa's film, The Red Beard, at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry auditorium.

Some of the best known films by Kurosawa — Seven Samurai and Sanjuro — will also be shown in the festival organised by the Embassy of Japan in co-operation with the Kuwait Cine Club. Other movies are by such directors as Furuhata and others.

The opening was attended by Japanese Ambassador Tsuyoshi Kurokawa.

Picture shows Cine Club Director Farouk Abdul Aziz (right) with Ambassador Kurokawa and a guest.

Tonight's film is Suspicion (1982) directed by Yoshitomo Nomura.



More gold at Lipton's second draw

Lipton's Gold Rush prizes for the second draw were distributed at Mohammad Abdul Rahman Al Bahar at Shuwaik. The lucky winner of the first prize was Cirilod Carranza who received 1/2 kilo of gold. Other prize winners won 2 prizes 100g gold, 6 prizes 50g gold and 10 prizes Noritake tea sets.

The last draw of the Lipton's gold rush offer will be conducted on the January 29, where 1 kilo of gold and other prizes will be announced for the lucky winners of the Lipton Gold Rush.

The picture shows (L-R) Rami Mustafa, C.M. Sahni, Hassan Ibrahim Qasim, prize winner Cirilod Carranza, Ahmed Khairi and Abdullah Abu Essa.

Indian Video Roundup

Anti-hero lives up to his image

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

DESPITE initial setbacks, Sunjay Dutt has generally emerged as an actor with promise. In his latest movie, Khatarnak (Dangerous), he plays a convincing anti-hero, rebelling against the system to prove that only the fittest can survive.

The film also shows the preference of filmmakers for anti-heroes, who will, perhaps, become a permanent fixture in Indian cinema. Khatarnak is a triumph of one man's will-power.

Initially, you want to keep your hands off the dangerous, combustible combination of Darbaria (Anupam Kher) and Jaunpuri (Kiran Kumar) with Suraj (Sunjay Dutt) fighting for stellar honours. The thrills and frills are aplenty, to keep action fans glued to their seats. But the format changes swiftly, twisting the normal saga into an acceptable story after writer Suraj Sanim introduces the elements of reform and realism, with some idealism thrown in for measure.

Definitely handled by director Bharat Rungachary, the slick production unfolds with compassionate zeal studying criminal behaviour and touching on some of its causes.

It's the story of children born and bred amid the harsh realities of poverty. Suraj is one such child, who learns at a very early age that he must fight back if he has to survive. It is this reality that hardens his resolve, and shapes his character.

He knows only the language of brute strength; he speaks it, breathes it, and becomes a hard-hearted criminal, and killing becomes a routine. And he survives until his conscience is jolted by a seemingly innocent episode in his life. Suraj is held responsible for the death of

Yogesh, the husband of a woman he admires.

Can circumstances shape destiny? Yes, says Khatarnak, through the vicious circle of events that first make and then break Suraj's dreams. Eventually, despite losing several crucial battles, he wins the war.

Although Khatarnak often slips into gimmicks, it does make a point. Suraj's pent up fury, his hopelessness, his dreams and the final moment of truth compensate the agony of watching meaningless violence, which has become a part of nearly all Hindi films. Sangeeta, Yogesh and Helena are some of the characters that form an integral part of the narrative.

Sunjay Dutt and Farha give convincing performances. Anita Raj in a brief cameo lives up to her vampish role. Anwar Khan's dialogue, Rajan Kinagi's photography and director Bharat Rungachary's grasp are worth mentioning in reviewing the overall impact of the movie.

Vidrohi

Pappu Varma's thrills in Vidrohi are as old as the hills of Rajasthan which are home to the growing population of outlaws in Hindi films.

Vidrohi has nothing new to offer. Khalid Narvi's screenplay seems to have been written in haste, perhaps as the result of a

terrible nightmare and if he didn't share it with us, it would haunt him for ever.

It haunts us for but a moment as we sit through the silly capers of the principals. They fight the good vs evil battle.

And when the war explodes, you are fairly certain of its outcome. The triumph of the hero is the anti-climax.

To add spice, Narvi waves his magic wand to sow the seeds of dissent and, lo presto, the most honest policeman turns a rebel. Some magic!

Political intrigue and outlaw tactics don't go hand in hand, as Narvi had envisaged. And when outlaw Nag Singh (Amrish Puri)

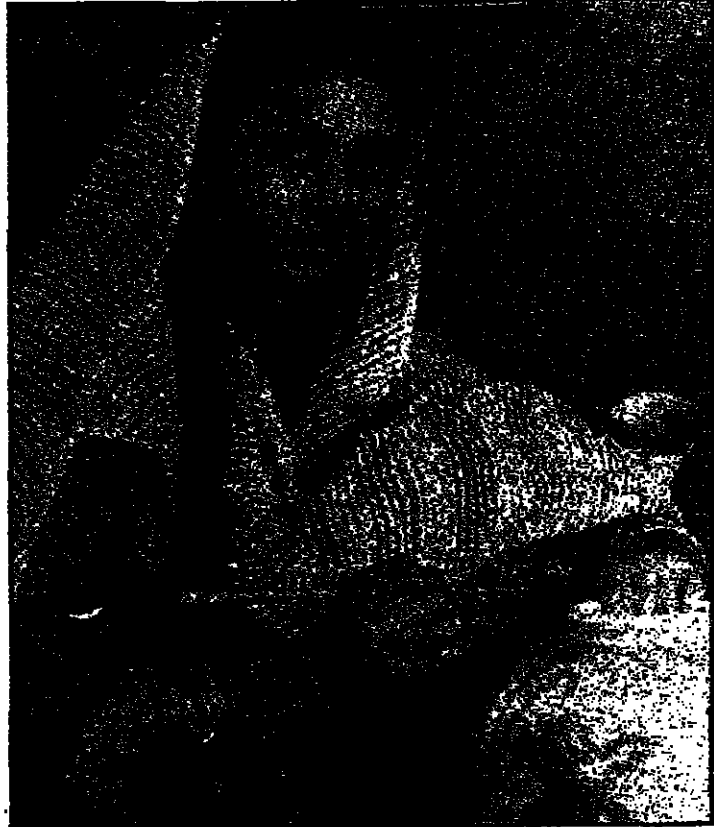
plays his serpentine game, we know that the police officer would suffer a snake bite. The scapegoat is the law — the blind lady of law that steps on everyone's toe when all other gimmicks fail.

Shatrughan Sinha's heroic struggle to overcome the hype seem like a waste of energy. Poonam Dhillon is the female attraction. It would be sane to let the lonely warrior — Vidrohi (the rebel) — fight for unknown causes, perhaps in the Rajasthanian deserts.

The above movies are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya, Tel: 471-2900; and Falcon Video, Abbasia.



Sunjay Dutt



Poonam Dhillon

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait City
Cairo Pharmacy
Fahed Al Salem Street
Lawla Pharmacy
Ahmed Al Jaber Street

Hawalli and Al Nagra
Al Qatami Pharmacy
Beirut Street

Al Salamiya and Al Rumithiya
Al Nahdha Pharmacy

Baghdad Street

Al Fahad and Al Ahmadi
Al Badya Pharmacy
Al Fahad

Jleeb Al Shuyoukh
Al Razi Pharmacy

Al Jahra
Al Zahara Pharmacy
New Souk

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Arabic film
Sahib
Halt Booked
Al Hamra
Mirage Beanfield War
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Ghar Mein Ram Gali Mein
Shyam

Fahad
Arabic film
Al Jahra
Lost Idol
Granada
Halt Booked
Salaikhat
Red Sonja
Jleeb
License to Kill
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

Malayalee law grads' forum

MALAYALEE law graduates in Kuwait have formed an association to be called the "Malayalee Law Graduates' Forum." Samuel John, V.T. Cheriya, Thomas Panicker and Pyaril were elected as President, Vice President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The forum which is to function as a social organisation also intends to hold regular discussions featuring the ever changing legalisations in India.

A 13-member committee has been formed for this purpose. The forum also plans to help non-resident Indians in Kuwait who face legal problems at home.

With this in view, an advisory cell, comprising members with considerable experience in the courts of India, has been formed. Malayalee law graduates interested in the activities of the forum may contact Samuel John on 2429285, 5637400 or Philip on 2444808.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints
THE Sultan Gallery extended their Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition until Jan 31. The gallery is open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Iraqi ceramics
AN exhibition of Iraqi ceramics is currently being held at the Hunting and Equestrian Club. The exhibition will be opened everyday until January 26 from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Seminar

THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

SOCIAL

Ballet
STEPS Ballet School commences its new term. Jan 1990 registration is now open. Sat-Wed in the Kuwait English School, Salwa from 3-7 pm. Call 5386481 between 9-12 noon for more information. (For girls only 4-15 years).

Bar-B-Q
IAC is organising its first Bar-B-Q night with the Octave group. Programmes start at 7 pm includes music, dance, games, and vegetarian and non-vegetarian bar-b-q. Entries are restricted by passes only. For details contact Sharma at 2644863, Sunny at 4343329, Jacob 4319549, George 4735972.

Raga Sharqi
INTENSIVE courses (January and February) in Raga Sharqi, the classical dance form of the Middle East. For details call 4836021.

Konkani drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on 16th February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy Josephine, Betty Alvarez, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar. Tickets now available at Canary Video (Sharq) and Video Clock (near G.P.O.). Rush for tickets, one show only.

Hotel Ramada Al Salam

A GRAND Indian Food Festival will be held from Jan 21-26 to coincide with the Republic Day of India. Arun Budhiraja, the Ambassador of India will grace the occasion, which will be supported by various Indian companies with stalls displaying Indian products. Enchanting performances by Indian classical dancers and musicians will be the highlights. A scrumptious Indian cuisine seeks to complete a memorable event.

Saaz aur Aawaz

SAAZ aur Aawaz which is one of the leading Indian musical groups with complete orchestra presents their fourth musical programme entitled "Bhule Bisre Geet" covering hit songs of yesteryears at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaites on Friday, Feb 2, 1990 at 6 pm. There will also be lucky draw prizes. For Passes call 3985456/3610224/5638026 after 4 pm.

Kalpak's Drama Competition
KERALA Arts and Literature Promotion Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is conducting a Malayalam One Act Play Competition at Indian Arts Circle on 9th February 1990.

Caledonian Society

The Annual Burns Night Supper will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel on Thursday, February 1st. For further information and ticket reservation phone: 5335082, 5332235 or 3727691 ext. 253.

II Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the II Annual One Act Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from each team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Carnival Fiesta '90

YMCA/Incredible S.C. are proud to announce their Carnival Fiesta '90 at Messilah Beach Hotel (Habiba) on Feb 22, '90.

Non-stop dancing from 8.30 pm onwards to the beat of latest sensation "Hurricane Alley" and "Neighbourhood."

Highlights: Best Carnival couple (fancy) and many many surprises. For details contact the organisers on Tel. 2450279 (between 8 am to 1 pm) or Tel. 3921712.

The Carnival Nite (By the Entertainers)
IN the arena of entertainment "The Entertainers" welcomes all to witness their "Carnival Nite" at the Ramada Salam Hotel's (Le Mirage Ballroom) on the 22nd February (Thursday) 1990 commencing from 9.00 pm onwards.

Special highlights will be: Parade by King Momo. Crowning of Carnival Queen by King Momo. Samba dance competition and group prizes, and many more to be announced.

Music will be specially created for this occasion to be performed by "Top Ranks" & "Perfect Strangers" be there as its "Viva la Carnival."

British Council

Story Telling Session: Thursday, Jan 25 at 10.30 am. Come and enjoy the magic of books with a story teller. Children of all nationalities, ages 3-7 are invited. Please book seats by calling Tel. 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

Bookworm Contest: The British Council is launching a bookworm contest open to children aged 7-15 years. Read as many books as you can. Have fun reading and win prizes. Register now at the British Council Library. Closing date for registration: Jan 27, 1990.

Kuwait Nomads RFC
A MATCH for all players available this weekend will take place on Thursday 25th. Please meet at 3 pm at Al Ahmadi. Any problems please contact S Hill or G Adams.

Ladies International League
LIL newcomers coffee morning will be held on Monday 29 January from 10 am to 12 noon at the Sheraton Hotel. Newcomers to Kuwait and LIL are most welcome. For more information call Ann on 5316905.

Flag hoisting
On the occasion of the Republic Day of India on Jan 26, 1990, there will be flag hoisting ceremony at 0900 hrs on that day, in the Indian Embassy premises at No. 34, Istiqlal Street.

NRI Forum lecture on Taxation and Investments
NRI Investors Forum is holding a lecture session at Indian embassy on Tuesday, the 30th January at 7.30 pm. The meeting would be addressed by a visiting expert from India. All Indians are welcome.

Like a Hurricane!!
SEVENTH Sky's Rock Concert at Al Andalus Cinema on 15th & 16th Feb '90. Featuring Rock, Pop/Rock and Rock 'n' Roll from the 80's. For information and reservation call 5730265/2543219.

Hobby centre
A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

The Carnival Nite

"THE Entertainers" proudly announces for the first time in Kuwait "The Carnival Nite" which is scheduled to be held at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel's Le Mirage main ballroom on 22nd February 1990. Be sure to be there with all your glit and glamorous costumes to witness this traditional event. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers will rhythm out their best musical performance for this occasion.

Soviet Ballet

STARS of the Soviet Ballet, featuring the Russian Ballet Company of Moscow will be touring Kuwait on February 2 and 3. They will perform 130 minute shows at Al Andalus Cinema, Hawalli. On Friday, Feb 2, the show will start at 6.00 pm. On Saturday, Feb 3, it will start at 8.00 pm. Tickets will be on sale starting Thursday 10.00 am to 8.00 pm. Friday throughout the day and during the following week at the box office.

SPORTS

Bhutto Cup

KUWAIT Cricket League is organising a cricket match between the teams of Indian and Pakistani veterans living in Kuwait, at K.C.L. ground on 2nd February 1990. The match will start at 9 am.

Kuwait Cricket takes this opportunity and announce that a lucky draw will be held with at least fifty prizes which includes colour TV, VCR, sewing machine, watches, cameras and many more household items are waiting for the winners.

All are cordially invited. For further information please call, tel. 5332052 S. Rizvi.

Ahmadi kart racing

THE next race meeting will be on 22nd February but if you want to try out the kart, the track is open all day on Friday. If you're interested in racing or just interested enough to get involved in some other way, come down and chat to us. From the Ahmadi turn off from the motorway, turn left at the water tower lights and we are on the left, before the petrol station.

Daniella Tennis 1990

Daniella organises again this year a tennis tournament for Dames. You can participate in ladies singles, men's singles and "social doubles". All Danish tennis players are welcome. Both beginners and more experienced. For further details and registration please call Carsten — 2402698 (office) or 3710215 ext. 27 (private) before Friday, Feb 2.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD
9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news
9.50 Cartoon Serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Aham Al Toyoor Al Saghera: Arabic feature, starring Ahmad Abdul Aziz, Fareeda Saif Al Naser and Anwar Ismael
11.30 Al Waad: Weekly Beduin Serial (part 4), starring Mohammed Al Abadi, Sahar Sami and Yousif Al Jamal
12.25 News Summary
12.30 Sabah Al Kher Final
12.35 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING PERIOD

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Beren: Cartoon Serial
5.15 Spencer: Arabic children serial (part 4)
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Al Fareso Al Asheq: historical serial (part 7)
7.00 Variety
7.15 Housing and Citizens: local programme, prepared by The National Housing

Authority
7.45 Manuments and Islamic Arts: Cultural programme (part 4)
8.30 Good Evening and Local News
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Television Network: local variety programme, prepared and presented by Abdul Rahman Al Najjar
10.15 Al Laaboon Fi Al Nar: Arabic serial (part 3)
11.15 Arnama Wa Thalathat Banat: Arabic feature film, starring Ameena Reza, Zaid Al Badawi and Nawal Abu Al Fotouh
12.45 News Summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Scooby Doo: A cartoon series for children
6.30 Danger Bay "Open Book" Jonah struggles to establish a friendship with a Vietnamese student, whose race and personal history keep him distant from the others
7.00 International Outdoorsman: "Wind-surfing the Gorge". Action-packed out-

door, live-action adventures that circles the globe, captivating the universal family audience....
7.30 Growing Pains: "Family Ties pt. 2. How Mike is going to manage living without the help of his parents and without committing errors!"
8.00 News in English
8.30 Top of the Hill: "The Noble Roman". Steve dies in a traffic accident but his friend Tom Bill tries to prove that the accident has prearranged. He seeks the help of John Romano who refuses to co-operate

9.30 The Science Edition. Smoking... its dangers on respiratory system... Banking plastic cards and their importance...
10.00 Cine Club: "White Heat". Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz. Starring James Cagney, Virginia Mayo. A ruthless gangster has a mother complex, but to all others around him he's a heartless killer government agent is infiltrated into his gang.
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Baghdad seeks loan

Iraq considering buying 10 Airbus airliners

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Jan 23, (AP): Iraqi officials rode on a demonstration flight yesterday aboard an Airbus A-310-300 jetliner, the European-built plane being considered to replace the aging fleet of state-run Iraqi Airways.

Nour Al Din Safi, the airline's chief executive, said the national carrier is considering buying 10 such planes to modernise its existing fleet of 16 US-made Boeing aircraft of various types.

Safi said negotiations are under way with the Paris-based Airbus Industrie for the initial purchase of five planes with the option to buy five more later.

No decision will be made until the

negotiations are concluded in about two months, he said.

Safi said each plane would cost \$75-80 million and that Iraq was seeking a loan of \$500 million to finance the purchase of the first five aircraft, including spare parts.

Several Arab and foreign banks have expressed interest in lending the money to Iraqi Airways which will repay the loan without any government assistance, he added.

He said that the first five would be delivered in two years for use on long and medium distance flights on the airline's routes to Europe and South-

cast Asia.

The airline is also negotiating with the United States' Boeing company for the purchase of several additional Boeing 767 airliners, Safi added, without saying how many.

He said the US company will be asked to demonstrate the plane in Iraq to officials of the State Economic Council, who will decide on whether to purchase the Airbus and the Boeing planes.

Safi said Iraqi Airways made a profit of 30 million dinars (\$96 million) in 1989 after carrying 1.2 million passengers, double the number it carried

the previous year.

The increase in traffic followed the lifting of a government ban on travel abroad for Iraqi citizens enforced during the eight-year war with Iran. Fighting ended in August 1988 with the acceptance of a UN-sponsored ceasefire by both sides.

Meanwhile a senior Turkish oil official started talks today with Iraq's oil undersecretary Sami Sharif on oil and technical co-operation, officials said.

They said Ozur Altan, head of the Turkish Petroleum Corporation, will have more talks with Iraq's Minister of

Oil Issam Al Chalabi, later in his four day visit to Iraq, but refused to give further details.

The visit was scheduled when Iraq would not sign a new agreement to supply Turkey with crude oil after Ankara cut off the flow of water in the Euphrates river nearly two weeks ago.

Iraq has asked Turkey to shorten the cut off period of ten days or two weeks instead of the 30 days Ankara said were needed to fill the Ataturk Dam.

But the Turkish government has not publicly responded to the Iraqi request, made in a letter from

President Saddam Hussein to the Turkish President Turgut Ozal. Kuwait on Monday said it would try to mediate the issue.

Iraq hoped changes in Turkey's diversion plan would reduce the damaging results of the water cut for millions of Iraqis in the Euphrates basin.

Iraq supplies Turkey with about 40 million metric tons of crude oil from its northern fields in Kirkuk through a 950 kilometres (590-miles) pipeline to the Mediterranean.

Iraq has two pipelines carrying its oil to the Mediterranean for export.

Turkey proposed last year to expand Iraq's second export pipeline so that Iraq's over-11 export capacity over land northwards through Turkey be increased to two MBD.

Altan is also expected to discuss with the Iraqi officials the possibility of expanding the pipeline by the Turkish Pipeline Authority, at a cost of about \$450 million.

Diplomats here said Iraq might not make any decision on future co-operation with Turkey unless Ankara makes some gesture toward Iraq's demand on the Euphrates water.

UK to give more aid to E. Europe

LONDON, Jan 23, (AP): Britain today announced a major aid package likely to be worth millions of pounds (dollars) to help the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe rebuild their economies.

Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, before flying to East Germany for a three-day visit, said fund already in place for Poland and Hungary was to be extended to other countries.

No figure was disclosed, but a foreign office spokesman, who wasn't identified in accordance with British custom, said the amount would be substantial.

The combined fund for Poland and Hungary, which is separate from British money given in European Economic Community aid, stands at £75 million (\$123 million).

On Saturday, European Economic Community foreign ministers meeting in Dublin announced extra emergency food aid for Romania and Poland totalling \$82.5 million, and \$6 million of medical supplies to Romania.

The British fund, aimed at countries firmly committed to reform, is to underwrite practical help and advice towards establishing political democracy and stable economies.

Before departing for East Berlin, where is to meet Prime Minister Hans Modrow and opposition leaders, Hurd said the momentous changes in Eastern Europe had made it necessary to widen Britain's contribution.

Israel, Moscow to sign trade agreement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 23, (Reuters): Israel and the Soviet Union are to sign an accord on commercial relations next weekend, opening the way for the first business deals in 22 years since Moscow severed diplomatic ties, the Foreign Ministry said today.

The accord, between the Israeli and Soviet chambers of commerce, will be signed in Moscow by Yacov Cohen the ministry's deputy director-general for economic affairs.

It will be the latest step in slowly thawing ties between the Kremlin and the Jewish state, following the restoration of low-level consular ties in 1987.

American corporate research spending dips

NEW YORK, Jan 23, (Reuters): Last year, for the first time since 1975, US corporate research spending declined in real terms, heightening concern that the United States may lose its edge in the high technology field, a New York Times article said today.

The decline in research spending will be outlined in a National Science Foundation survey due to be released within a week, it said.

The report will show that although research outlays rose to \$68.8 billion in 1989 from \$66.5 billion in the previous year, when adjusted for inflation the change represented a decline of nine-tenths of one per cent.

Economists and corporate research executives say the trend is particularly worrisome because much of the money is being shifted from basic research, which is less immediately profitable, to the development of specific products.

In addition, a smaller proportion of US corporate research is now conducted in large laboratories, where resources can be pooled.

The reduced spending on research reflects several factors, such as high US interest rates and corporations' increased attention to short-term profitability, particularly in this area of widespread mergers and acquisitions.

In 1987, the most recent year for which comparable figures are available, research spending by Japanese companies was growing at more than three times the US rate.

World Bank loan for Mexico

MEXICO CITY, Jan 23, (AP): The World Bank has announced plans to lend Mexico \$7.5 billion, citing the country's success at restructuring its economy.

World Bank Barber Conable told the government news agency Notimex today that Mexico will get an immediate loan of \$900 million and the rest over three years.

The World Bank is becoming the chief source of new funds entering Mexico, said Conable, who is visiting this week to lend the organisation's support to economic reforms in Mexico.

Opec may regain dominance

Iraq vows to stick to Opec oil accord

BAGHDAD, Jan 23, (Reuters): Oil Minister Issam Abdul-Rahim Al Chalabi pledged in remarks published today that Iraq was committed to its Opec supply quota of 3.14 million barrels per day (bpd), despite completion of new oil outlets.

"We will not violate the production accord laid by Opec (the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) ... and we expect all other member states to do the same," Chalabi told the English-language newspaper the Baghdad Observer.

He said Iraq's export capacity was about five million bpd. Around 1.65 million bpd could be exported through Turkey, 1.65 million through Saudi Arabia and 1.6 million by sea from Iraqi Gulf ports.

Three berths at Al Bakr Gulf terminal were in full operation feeding large oil tankers. A fourth would begin operating early next month.

"Current export capacity and outlets ensure us a high degree of export flexibility, bearing in mind the export bottleneck Iraq used to suffer," he said.

Iraq was unable to export oil by sea during its eight-year war with Iran, relying mainly on

pipelines through Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Baghdad began repairing its export terminals on the Gulf after an August 1988 ceasefire.

Chalabi called for early dialogue between oil exporters and consumers to encourage stability in world oil prices.

"Generally, the parties concerned stand for holding such a dialogue, with a few exceptions like Britain which reject it," he said.

He said all Opec states except the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were adhering to their supply quotas agreed in November. The oil price would probably not be affected by the UAE's stance, he added.

He said 50 per cent of the world's energy in future decades would continue to come from oil and gas.

"There appears no economic or environmental need for giving up oil and gas as the main source of energy," he said.

He said Iraq's proven oil reserves were well over the 100 billion barrels estimated by the industry magazine "Oil and Gas Journal." Only Saudi Arabia had bigger reserves, at 250 billion barrels.

Meanwhile, Middle East producers are likely to reassert their dominance of global oil supply within the next 10 years, forcing prices above \$30 a barrel, Indonesia's energy minister said today.

Ginanjar Kartasasmita, speaking at the opening of a Manila energy conference, called on the nations of Southeast Asia to co-operate to diversify energy resources and avoid dependence on oil from outside the region.

He said production by countries outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) was expected to plateau and start tapering off by the mid-1990s.

"Oil demand is expected to continue its growth, especially as environmental pressures may limit coal and nuclear utilisation in the developed world," Ginanjar said in a keynote address.

With some smaller Opec producers like Indonesia unable to increase output significantly, Ginanjar said, the "world will depend to a much greater extent than today on countries with large oil reserves and production capacities — those located in the Middle East."

Business paper to be launched

Moves to liberalise East German economy

EAST BERLIN, Jan 23, (Reuters): East German media, once monopolised by the Communist Party, took another step towards the free market on Monday with news of the imminent launch of the country's first Western-style business paper.

An East German publishing house said it would start up Die Wirtschaft, a weekly whose title means "the economy," next month. Its predecessor of the same name was shut in 1983.

At the time, the hardline communist government said a shortage of paper had forced the closure.

"The real reason was that they didn't want statistics published or an open discussion of the economy," said Dittmar Kiermaier, the re-launched newspaper's deputy editor.

Economic news has taken on a new importance after a promise from the communist-led reformist government to allow the private sector a greater role in the economy.

Kiermaier told Reuters that Die Wirtschaft would be modelled on Western business papers, taking a hard look at the government's reform moves. It will carry advertising.

A monthly edition of Die Wirtschaft will hit the streets from February, followed by a weekly from April. The initial print-run is 25,000.

East Germany has a magazine with information on foreign trade, but the country's thousands of would-be entrepreneurs have had little to read.

In addition, East Germans can never be sure if the official economic data they read is accurate as critics maintain the government has cooked the statistics for years to make it look as if its policies were working.

East Germany's first Western-style business paper is being launched, however, at a time when the government is striving to improve the quality of its economic data.

East Germany's statistics office has scheduled a news conference for today, its first for the foreign press in more than a decade, where it will explain how its economic data is put together.

Moves to liberalise East Germany's economy, crippled by decades of Stalinist bureaucracy, have also spilled over into the media scene with the announcement last week that communist funded papers will have to pay their own way from April.

Many Communist Party papers have declared themselves editorially independent and East Germans have suddenly been confronted by advertising supplements for the first time.

A flood of West German publishing houses want to set up in East Germany, hoping to land their first trial editions soon.

Tokyo stock index firms

TOKYO, Jan 23, (Reuters): Buying by investment trust funds pushed the Tokyo Stock market's Nikkei Average up slightly today while the dollar fell sharply, particularly against the mark.

The key 225-share Nikkei index rose 121.01 points or 0.32 per cent to 37,378.02 after surging 420.27 on Monday.

"It's been a pretty neutral market right now, with some pluses and minuses totalling zero," said Miroyuki Mura, general manager of equities at Nikko Securities Co. Ltd.

Turnover was about 500 million shares compared with a thin 350 million on Monday. Small-capital stocks were favoured throughout the day.

The broader first section index, or topix, crept up 4.33 points or 0.16 per cent to 2,740.18 after leaping 34.52 on Monday.

"Many investors think the worst is over," said Gregory Bundy, head of equity trading at Merrill Lynch Japan Inc, referring to perceptions that both stock and long-term yen bond prices have bottomed out.

But Bundy added that today's advances could easily be erased on Wednesday since the bond and currency markets are still volatile.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Jan 23, (Reuters): Official confirmation of an easing of monetary policy helped the market resist the influence of Wall Street's 77-point slide. The All Ordinaries closed down 7.5 at 4,644.8.

TOKYO: Uncertainty and nervousness despite slightly rebounding bond prices kept trade generally thin, but ample buying from investment trust funds helped push the Nikkei index up 121.01 to close at 37,378.02.

HONG KONG: Share prices recovered most of their early losses following slow accumulation of local institutional investors, but still ended lower. The Hang Seng index closed at 2,762.45, down 9.20.

SINGAPORE: Share prices rebounded from a week-long slide to end sharply higher on heavy buying by state-owned investment trusts.

Expansion alarmed

Alba seeks loan

BAHRAIN, Jan 23, (Reuters): Aluminium Bahrain BSC (Alba) has asked a consortium of banks led by Bahrain's Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) and Kuwait-based Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC) to arrange a \$560 million loan, bankers said today.

The 10-year facility, the biggest commercial loan in the Gulf for several years, is the first part of a \$1.4 billion expansion that will more than double the smelter's capacity to 465,000 tonnes per year.

Bankers said details of the loan package would be finalised in the next few days and other international banks invited to join afterwards. The loan would probably be signed before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins in late March.

Two other consortia, one led by Bahrain's Gulf International Bank and London-based Chase Investment Bank and the other by Citibank, had

competed for the mandate to arrange the loan.

The ABC consortium includes Manufacturers Hanover, Arab Bank Limited, Riyadh Bank, National Commercial Bank, Bank of Tokyo, Industrial Bank of Japan, Mitsubishi Bank and Sumitomo Bank.

Alba's expansion, which will make its smelter one of the biggest in the world, includes building two pot rooms, an 800 megawatt power station and a carbon plant.

Work is expected to begin early this year and finish within two to three years.

Bahrain last July raised its stake in Alba to 74.9 per cent from 57.9 per cent. The Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund holds 20 per cent and West Germany's Breton Investments 5.1 per cent.

Union Carbide stands by settlement

'There will be no compromise with crime'

DANBURY, Connecticut, Jan 23, (UPI): Union Carbide Corp. officials said today they were confident the \$470 million settlement over the Bhopal poison gas tragedy will stand in the face of a challenge by Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

Singh announced Sunday his government will reinstate criminal liability charges against Union Carbide and its former chairman if the Indian Supreme Court overturns the settlement reached with the previous government Feb 14.

"We really don't see that happening," said spokesman Robert Berzok at Union Carbide's Danbury headquarters.

Singh spoke before about 10,000 people during a four-hour visit Sunday to the scene of history's worst industrial disaster, which has caused more than 3,300 deaths since it occurred Dec 3, 1984.

"Human life and criminal liability cannot be compromised," Singh said. "There will be no compromise with the crime in the settlement for compensation with the company."

"No one has the right to bargain on the lives of people," said Singh, who took power Dec 2, 1989. Berzok said the company had no comment on

Singh's strong language and preferred to stand behind the statement issued last week by Union Carbide general counsel Joseph E. Geoghan.

Geoghan said at the time the settlement was an "extremely fair," binding agreement on India and that Singh and his government "cannot disavow the settlement because they disagree with it."

Singh said his government would reinstate criminal liability charges in the case if a special Supreme Court review panel upholds petitions demanding cancellation of the settlement between Union Carbide and the former Congress (I) Party administration of Rajiv Gandhi.

In return for payment of \$470 million, the Gandhi government dropped criminal liability charges brought against Union Carbide, its former chairman, Warren Anderson, the firm's Hong Kong office and its Indian subsidiary and seven officials.

The accord, negotiated by a three-judge Supreme Court bench, also required the Gandhi administration to drop a \$3 billion civil liability suit that claimed Union Carbide's negligence was responsible for the leak.

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Only a cancelled flight saved Stephanie Powers from being murdered with wild-life expert George Adamson (top).

True-life dramas When stars face danger

THE deadly rattlesnake was moving closer and closer to the toddler. The beautiful actress pulled out her pistol and blasted its head ten feet from its body.

But this was not a case of "Cut, take five, and shoot the scene again." Cybill Shepherd was shooting for real. And she is not the only star to have tasted the adrenalin surge of a real-life drama.

Rambo Sylvester Stallone saved the life of his drowning odd-job man, while Cher did the same for her daughter with a hospital dash. The life Liz Taylor saved in a swimming-pool drama was her own.

A filming stunt nearly killed Mel Gibson, while another was nearly the death of Dr. Who beauty Sophie Aldred. It was a rapidly breaking-up ice floe that almost did for dandy actor Richard Chamberlain.

Sally Field amazingly survived when a private jet crashed. Stefanie Powers' life was saved by a cancelled flight.

Cybill Shepherd dotes on two two-year-old twins, Ariel and Zak. She has had their names engraved on the pair of gold spoons from which they took their first solid food. Currently, Cybill is fighting her father, Bruce Oppenheimer, through the divorce courts over them.

So when Cybill saw the three-foot rattlesnake slithering towards Ariel on the set of her film, Texasville, she did not stop to think.

Cybill, who played Maddie in the hit television show, Moonlighting, pulled out the .38 pistol she carries for her own protection. She turned it on the rattlesnake. And left the reptile in no condition to answer back.

Sally Field's actress Cher thought just as fast when her 19-year-old daughter Chastity's appendix burst. She bundled her into her Cadillac limousine and raced 15 miles to a hospital. There surgeons carried out a three-hour operation to save Chastity's life.

Chastity, daughter of Cher's former husband and partner Sonny Bono, came close to contracting pertussis, which could have killed her. Doctors praised Cher for getting her daughter to the operating theatre so quickly.

A friend said later: "Cher was petrified because she thought they had arrived too late. When the doctor came out and said that Chastity would be okay, Cher was so relieved she burst into tears."

Liz Taylor's taste of real-life drama came when she was swimming in her pool in an attempt to ease back pains. Suddenly, she felt cramp in both legs.

The beautiful actress screamed for help, but her housekeeper in the nearby kitchen of her mansion in Bel Air, California, did not hear. Liz sank to the bottom of the eight-foot-deep pool and began to drown.

A close friend described what happened next: "Liz was close to giving up. Her lungs were burning. And she was in tremendous pain. But she managed to keep her wits about her."

"Liz finally managed to get her head above water, grabbed the edge of the pool, and slowly dragged herself up."

When the housekeeper did spot the star, she was sprawled on the ground, crying and coughing up water.

Sylvester Stallone's odd-job man, Louie Colucci, was in a terrible trouble when he tripped and fell into Stallone's Olympic-sized pool. He was dragged down by a deadly weight because his leg was in plaster.

The water-logged plaster cast pulled Louie to the bottom and pinned him there. The star of Rambo with death in his eyes was in difficulties and dove in fully clothed and pulled him out of the water. Then Stallone rushed him to hospital for treatment.

Richard Chamberlain was filming in Greenland when he had a brush with death he will never forget. He was on an ice floe with a crew of 14 making a movie about Arctic explorers when a storm blew up and the ice started to crack.

Producer Robert Halmis said: "The ice was beginning to break up. Cracks were appearing all over it. I called a helicopter, and Richard was one of the last to be picked up. They got to him just in time."

Chamberlain said later: "It was the most terrifying moment of my life. I knew that, if I had been thrown into the water I really would not have a chance. It was touch and go."

It was touch and go, too, for Mel Gibson when he was tied up in a sack and dumped in a water tank for a scene in Lethal Weapon II.

As one of the crew explained: "He took far longer to release himself than we expected. When he did, his cheeks were ballooned and his eyes were popping out of his skull. We thought he was a goner."

Professional divers were standing by, ready to rescue Mel as soon as he reached the surface. But in the best show-must-go-on tradition, Mel simply shrugged off his brush with death. "He was a very lucky man," the crewman added.

Lovely Sophie Aldred was nearly cut to ribbons playing Dr. Who's assistant, Ace, in the cult television show. It was quick thinking by Sylvester McCoy, who plays the doctor, that saved the day.

Sophie had been lowered into a huge tank on the set to film a sequence for the show when water pressure broke the glass.

Sophie remembers: "We were getting ready to do the underwater scene. I put my nose against the glass of the tank and felt it crack. No-one knew what to do. There was a deadly silence."

"Sylvester saved my life. He screamed, 'Get her out', and the crew hauled me to safety. I was shaking a bit but unharmed."

As she watched the water burst out of the tank and flood the studio floor, Sophie realised how close to death she had been. She said later: "If I hadn't been pulled clear, I'd have been killed. It was a very close call. It really was nearly a watery grave for me."

But courageous Sophie was not frightened off doing her own stunts. She said: "At the end of the day, I didn't get killed in the tank. There is no point in worrying about what might have been. It was a simple accident. They happen so rarely."

Oscar-winning actress Sally Field was lucky to escape unscathed when the borrowed Challenger executive jet that was to carry her from the luxury Aspen, Colorado, airport took a take-off.

The plane smashed into two parked aircraft as it slowed across the runway, writing off all three in the multi-million dollar accident.

Said Jeff Lundem in the local sheriff's office: "It never left the ground. It veered to the right, skidded across the grass and struck two parked jets. It ripped the nose gear out of one plane and came to rest in the middle of the second."

East and West is ending, a threat to the world's natural resources through nuclear war or accident still lingers.

The United Nations has previously discussed suggestions for a bank for the world's plant genes, without reaching agreement, Dr. Ramdal told Reuters. One idea was to use a mountain in the Andes in South America.

Smaller banks of genetic material already exist — Norway already has a small store, mostly of grains, down a disused mineshaft on Svalbard.

Dr. Ramdal said the ministry reckons a store dug in the Permafrost in Svalbard, 1,040 km (650 miles) from the North Pole, would be ideal. Svalbard was formerly known as Spitzbergen, the name of the largest island in the group.

Norway will offer to pay to build the underground store on Svalbard at an estimated cost of five or six million crowns (\$750,000 to \$920,000) then asked the United Nations to help run it, she added.

The ministry was in contact with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, based in Rome, over its proposal, which

has yet to get formal approval from the Norwegian government.

Scientists say there are hundreds of thousands of plant species in the world.

"You can store seeds in the cold. With a low relative humidity they could be stored for 10 to 20 years and then you'd probably have to replace them," said Halvor Orseth, head of the biological institute at Oslo University.

But some seeds have lasted far longer. Seeds sealed in the Pharaohs' tombs in Egypt have germinated thousands of years after they were stored.

Dr. Ramdal said the permafrost was a better place to store genetic material than a huge electric deep freeze.

"No matter how many backups you have, there is always the danger that the electricity supply could be cut off," she said.

Dr. Ramdal said Norway, one of the world's most generous aid donors, would be a good site for the store.

In 1989, Norway gave 1.09 per cent of its gross domestic product to the developing world.

"Norway has a good standing with the

Real brilliance of Michelangelo restored

VATICAN CITY, (Reuters): Standing just below the ceiling Michelangelo turned into one of the world's greatest art treasures, a gentle, grey-haired man peers down at the throng of tourists cramming the Vatican's Sistine Chapel.

The throng stares back — at a mammoth fresco it has taken Vatican restorer Gianluigi Colalucci 10 long years to strip off a thick, dark layer of candle-smoke, dust and varnish. Thanks to him, what they see today is a dazzling feast of colours.

It's a good thing I've nearly finished. Since this summer I've felt the same pains Michelangelo suffered when he painted this — a very stiff neck and shoulders," Colalucci, 60, said in an interview.

The colours he has unveiled are so dazzling, in fact, that history books will have to be rewritten, because none recorded that the renaissance artist painted his powerful Old Testament scenes in bright yellows and oranges.

Smoke from the candles, braziers and torches lit during centuries of papal services and conclaves in the chapel quickly dulled Michelangelo's telling of

how God created the world and chased Adam and Eve from Paradise, painted between 1508 and 1541.

Dust, damp and thick layers of yellowish varnish liberally splashed on by would-be restorers over the years only made it worse.

In 1980, Colalucci climbed the scaffolding to the vaulted ceiling for the first time, the start of a \$3 million restoration project paid for by a Japanese television network.

This March should see the end of the cleaning. Now the figures, bursting with colour, are so three-dimensional they almost jump out of the ceiling.

But the work will still not be over. Once the ceiling is finished, the team will set out on what may turn out to be an even tougher task — the 160 square metres (1,800 square feet) of the violent Last Judgement on the Altar Wall, a swirling vision of earth, heaven and hell that took Michelangelo seven years to paint.

Working in the last years of his life, two decades after he painted the ceiling, Michelangelo peopled his colossal work

with some 300 figures — the good rising to heaven and the evil falling to hell, writing as a forbidding Christ casts them down into the hands of ugly devils.

"It's a completely different ball game. We haven't even got the slightest idea where Michelangelo made his first brushstroke," said Kathleen Weil-Garris Brandt, art history professor at New York University and the Vatican's consultant on Renaissance art.

With the Vatican team knowing so little, it could be as long as a year before they first treat the work. As project director Fabrizio Mancinelli put it: "We need to check everything, we just can't afford a single mistake."

Because the Last Judgement towers just above the altar, the layers of candle-smoke covering it are much thicker than on the ceiling.

Another headache is what, if anything, to do about the Vatican ordered painted over the genitals of Michelangelo's twisted bodies. The 16th century Pope Clement XIII wanted the whole thing

whitewashed.

Michelangelo had already tasted sweet revenge. Before he died he returned to the chapel to cast Pope Paul III's master of ceremonies into hell, portraying him with the ears of an ass — the official had dared to lament the bodies' nudity.

"We're not talking about the popes being prudish. These veils have to do with the church's attitude to the faith, it's something which has to be approached with great sensitivity," said Brandt.

The restorers say nothing has yet been decided but one predicted some of the veils at least would eventually be spirited away. Some veils added in the 16th century cannot be removed because the artist used the same fresco technique as Michelangelo.

Whatever the Vatican does with the veils, it may be as many as five years before Colalucci strips the last covering of dirt from Michelangelo's frescoes.

But he is undaunted: "So far I'm delighted with what I've done. No regrets. For me my work is like playing an instrument — lots of sweat but that's the price to pay for hearing the sweet music."



Kim Ok-Sun, wife of Chu Pyung-Muk prepares a traditional Korean meal for visiting guests with her 15-month-old son on her back (Reuters wirephoto)

Home sweet home in North Korea

PYONGYANG, (Reuters): At a new-ish apartment block on a dark and nearly deserted street, Mr Kim — not a very convincing actor — pretends to consider various doors before giving one a try. "We'll just see if, by chance, anybody is in," the state guide says and knocks.

The door is immediately opened and a foreign visitor is given a very rare, if not very spontaneous, glimpse of the way people live in North Korea.

Sixty-four-year-old Chu Pyung-muk unfailingly answers along official lines but both he and his family are warm and candid, and not actors.

North Koreans do not invite foreigners to their homes not because they are inhospitable, but because it is dangerous.

Diplomats here say secret police and elaborate neighbourhood watch schemes control the population, and they compare the personality cult surrounding great leader Kim Il-sung to that of "big brother" in George Orwell's novel "1984." There is

no history of democracy and information is strictly controlled.

During an officially sanctioned visit the traditional hospitality emerges and the atmosphere is relaxed.

Three generations sit on the heated floor around a low table and modest meal of the spicy national cabbage dish Kimchi, pickled cucumber and sliced beef with onions is served by Chu's 60-year-old wife, Kim Ok-sun.

His 30-year-old daughter, Chu Sun-ae, when she isn't tending to her 15-month-old son, serves beer and ginseng wine.

Mr Kim fades into the background as the host family insists on asking one question after another in return for every question asked of them.

As the small room fills with cigarette smoke, the conversation grows louder to drown out flag-waving peasants noisily storming a hill in a war film on the colour television.

Above us, the great leader and his son, dear leader Kim Jong-il,

look down impassively from adjoining photographs.

Chu, unquestionably the head of the household, says the family has all it needs.

There is uproarious laughter when asked if they are happy with their socialism and the leadership of Kim Il-sung.

"I always remember the past," says Chu, his weather-beaten face still smiling. "Kim Il-sung liberated our country from Japanese rule (in 1945). We were very poor but after liberation he paid much attention to ordinary people."

"Without him I think we could not live like this."

Daughter Sun-ae used to play volleyball for North Korea and was given the flat and television after she captained the team in a tournament in Japan. Her husband plays basketball for the country.

Diplomats here say that below the top leadership North Korean society is egalitarian, but as a member of the sporting elite Sun-

ae is no doubt luckier than most.

Her wage is 30 per cent higher than that of her electrician father, but being four years over the official retirement age he gets a pension that cuts the difference to 10 per cent. Chu says he saves half the money he receives.

Dollar comparisons with the Chu's wages are useless, not just because the currency provided to local people is not convertible, but also because housing, medical care, schooling and basic foods like rice are provided free.

"Whenever we feel it is necessary to eat meat or fish we eat it," Chu answers when asked how much of both they eat.

The apartment building, though very plain, is one of the newest of the hundreds of faceless blocks that dot the city. The flat is 90 square metres (1,000 sq ft), sparsely furnished and home to five adults and one child.

"Of course, of course, we are happy," said the vivacious Sun-ae, adding that when she had travelled abroad with her team

she was always glad to return home.

"I didn't have time to look around in detail," she says, "but here everything is organised, in capitalist countries everything is so chaotic... the worst thing was the pollution."

Chu says that during the 1950-53 Korean war he lost his faith in Christianity but that every spring and autumn the family goes to sweep the graves of their ancestors in traditional fashion.

The teaching of Kim Il-sung that man should rely on himself is all the religion he needs, he says.

The family members say they are free to travel as they wish within the country and do whatever else they want.

What if they disagreed with the government?

"I have no experience of that," said Sun-ae. "But some time ago I said I wanted to stop playing volleyball so much and go to university to learn coaching. My wish was granted and I am now studying part-time."

Norway proposes Svalbard as a natural deep-freeze World's plants may soon be safe-frozen in Arctic

OSLO, (Reuters): Scientists wanting to study rare tropical plants may soon find the best place is down an icy hole on an island near the North Pole.

Norway's Ministry of Overseas Development is proposing to use Svalbard, a chain of Norwegian islands high above the Arctic Circle, as a natural deep freeze to store seeds from every type of plant in the world to safeguard against extinction.

"If there are ecological disasters, the plants would be saved by our plan for a genetic bank of all the world's species," said Torun Dranddal, state secretary at the ministry.

Seeds, even from tropical plants accustomed to sweltering jungles, can be frozen and heated again to germinate and grow. Dranddal said plant genes could contain clues for curing illnesses such as cancer or AIDS.

Burning of the Amazon rain forest, acid rain and possible warming of the globe from pollution belched into the environment are among threats to precarious habitats of thousands of species of plants.

And even though the cold war between

East and West is ending, a threat to the world's natural resources through nuclear war or accident still lingers.

The United Nations has previously discussed suggestions for a bank for the world's plant genes, without reaching agreement, Dr. Ramdal told Reuters. One idea was to use a mountain in the Andes in South America.

Smaller banks of genetic material already exist — Norway already has a small store, mostly of grains, down a disused mineshaft on Svalbard.

Dr. Ramdal said the ministry reckons a store dug in the Permafrost in Svalbard, 1,040 km (650 miles) from the North Pole, would be ideal. Svalbard was formerly known as Spitzbergen, the name of the largest island in the group.

Norway will offer to pay to build the underground store on Svalbard at an estimated cost of five or six million crowns (\$750,000 to \$920,000) then asked the United Nations to help run it, she added.

The ministry was in contact with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, based in Rome, over its proposal, which

has yet to get formal approval from the Norwegian government.

Scientists say there are hundreds of thousands of plant species in the world.

"You can store seeds in the cold. With a low relative humidity they could be stored for 10 to 20 years and then you'd probably have to replace them," said Halvor Orseth, head of the biological institute at Oslo University.

But some seeds have lasted far longer. Seeds sealed in the Pharaohs' tombs in Egypt have germinated thousands of years after they were stored.

Dr. Ramdal said the permafrost was a better place to store genetic material than a huge electric deep freeze.

"No matter how many backups you have, there is always the danger that the electricity supply could be cut off," she said.

Dr. Ramdal said Norway, one of the world's most generous aid donors, would be a good site for the store.

In 1989, Norway gave 1.09 per cent of its gross domestic product to the developing world.

Developing nations. Three-quarters of the world's plant resources are in these countries," she said. "The bank would start by concentrating on collecting tropical and sub-tropical species."

"Developing nations and other countries could treat the genetic material as in a bank safe," she said. "They could both deposit and make withdrawals."

But Dranddal added that there would have to be safeguards to ensure that the store was not used by multinational firms for research into artificial substitutes for commodities produced by poor nations.

"Substitutes for cocoa, coffee, sugar and other commodities pose a big threat to the nations which grow these products," she said. "We would have to protect their interest."

Svalbard may also be a suitable site for an international gene bank as it is an oddity in East-West relations.

Norway has ruled the islands since 1920, when an international treaty gave Oslo sovereignty but allowed 41 other nations to settle on the islands. So far, only NATO members Norway and the Soviet Union have permanent settlements.

FAMILY DOCTOR By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

Expectants should not worry about air travel

QUESTION: With our first baby due this spring, I have been looking forward to a trip back home to spend some time with my mother, but I'm afraid that flying might injure the baby in some way. I have discussed with my husband, who thinks I'm being pretty silly. What's your opinion?

ANSWER: I side with your husband, although I won't go so far as to call your concern silly. Let's just say it's normal concern by an expectant mother. Expectant mothers can and do fly regularly, but they need to take some additional precautions just as they do on the ground.

When making your reservations, inform the airline of your special condition, and needs. They will usually oblige quite graciously. You're more prone to motion sickness during pregnancy, and flying also can intensify an attack of morning sickness.

You can minimise this by flying at night if possible, while sitting near a window about midway through the plane. A brief look outside will help keep your space orientation intact and reduce dizziness. Recline your chair slightly, and wear your seat belt around your groin or upper thighs to

minimise pressure on your abdomen. If the seat belt sign is off, your circulation can benefit from a brief walk up and down the aisle once or twice during a long flight. The air inside a plane is much drier than you are normally exposed to; treat yourself to fruit juice or soft drinks during the trip while avoiding, as you would anytime during pregnancy, alcoholic beverages. Check with your personal physician about other precautions you may take, in case I have left any out. Have a safe journey.

QUESTION: I have been caring for some coring sores on my youngster's face by careful washing with soap and water, but it's not getting any better. It's very hard for us to get to a doctor, and this seems like such a little thing. Can you tell me how to treat this thing?

ANSWER: The most common cause of blistering sores in children is called impetigo, an infection often passed on in crowded or unsanitary environments. The sores are small, no longer than 1 to 2 millimeters across, and often appear in groups on the child's face, arms or legs. In bulboous impetigo, the sores can be much larger, up to a half-inch in

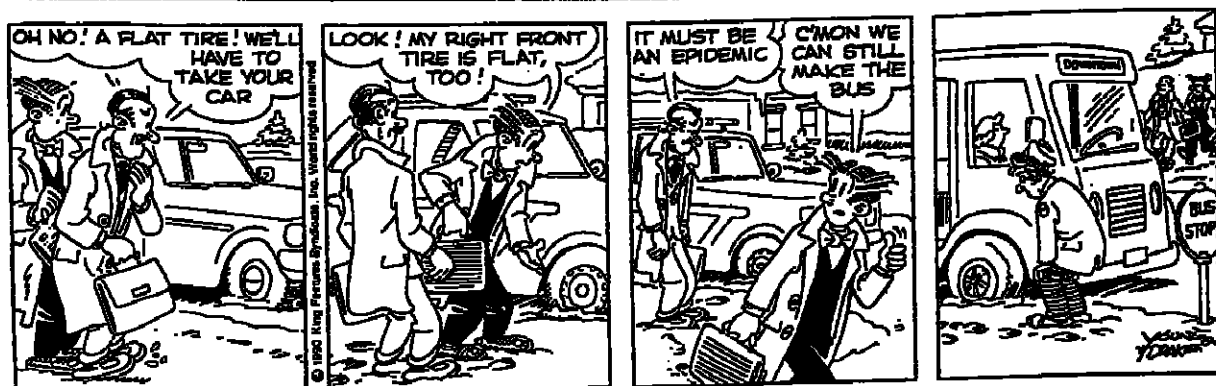
diameter. Washing won't clear up your son's condition. This bug has to be fought from the inside out, and it is not just a minor rash, but a serious condition. It is a skin infection usually caused by a streptococcus or staphylococcus bacterium. A doctor should diagnose this condition and prescribe an appropriate antibiotic. A penicillin injection might do the trick, but if your son's allergic to penicillin (or just afraid of needles), and if the bacteria is resistant to penicillin, erythromycin taken in pill or capsule form for 10 days is equally effective.

While the medication is working, try to prevent your child from picking at the crusts and scabs that form over the sores. Keep hands and fingernails clean by frequent washing. In the meantime, you should be cautious about keeping family wash clothes, towels and other linen separate, to prevent the spread of this infection to other members of the family. Be sure to wash and clean your youngster's clothes most carefully, keeping them separate from your other laundry, and boiling them.

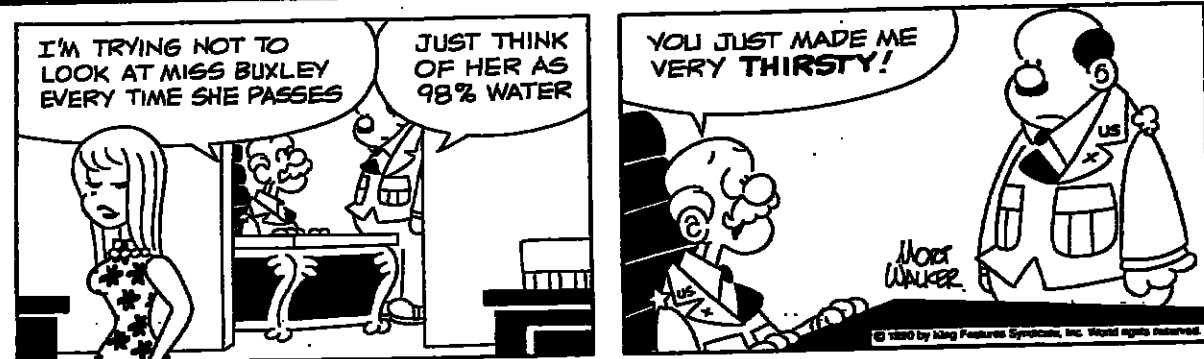
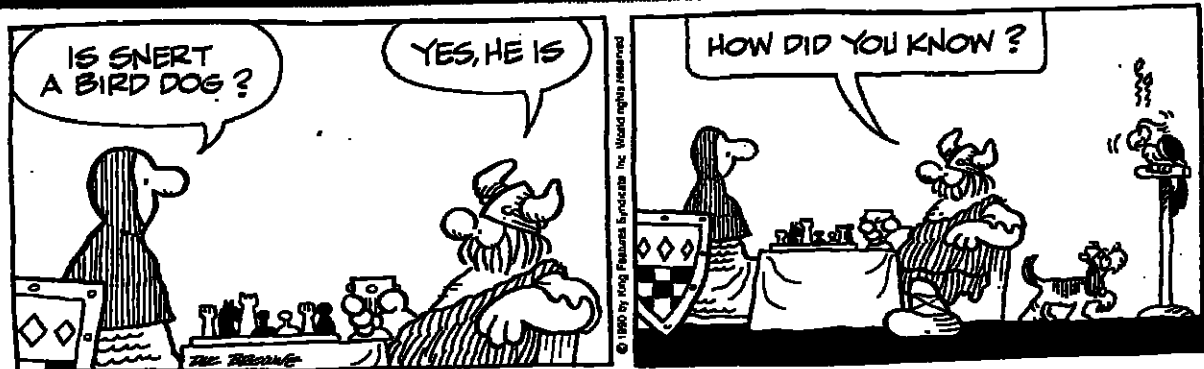
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LEISURE

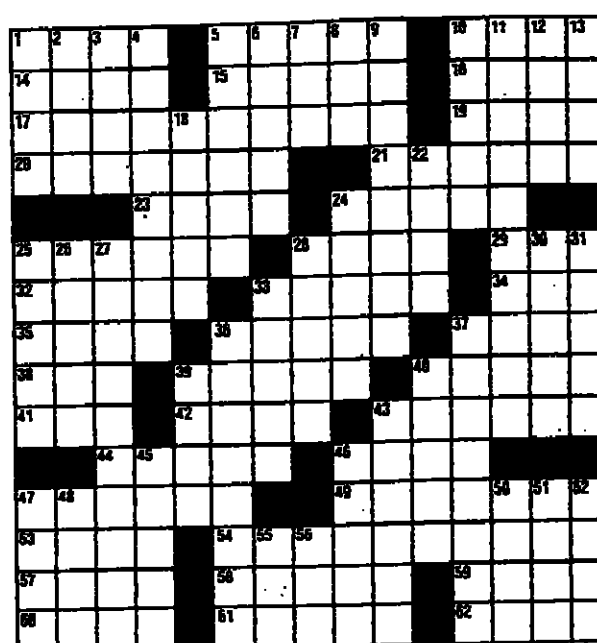
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HARRY THE HORRIBLE



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Shape
 - Malediction
 - Butcher's cut
 - Winglike parts
 - Of space
 - "The Lavender Mob"
 - Wimbledon event
 - Money premium
 - Phoenician goddess of fertility
 - Waiter at a drive-in
 - Winter weather word
 - Hiding place
 - biology
 - The New Look designer
 - Ref's relative
 - Closing words
 - Messure, in Manchester
 - Family mem.
 - Native of Ghent; Abbr.
 - Calms the baby?
 - Seaport in SE Spain
 - Former Queen of Spain
 - Wife of Jason
 - Break up
 - Pig's digs
 - Finished
 - Linen sale purchases
 - Part of a fortification
 - Sun, for one
 - Floral crown, in poetry
 - Loose cloak
 - Places
 - Track events
- DOWN**
- Morgana
 - Cheers for the torador
 - Carry on
 - Dangerous
 - Balmoral, for one
 - Prodded
 - Cartoonist Gardner
 - Actor Waterston
 - State makers
 - Scorchies
 - Barrier for a jumper
 - Hedgepodge
 - Fall suddenly
 - Actor Jeremy
 - Rhine leader
 - City of SE Alaska
 - Cultured pearls
 - Catkin
 - Team events at the track
 - Kitchen "cut up"
 - Deserve
 - Small areas of ground
 - Cloth from Austria
 - Made over
 - Opening
 - A la follower
 - Writer Alexander
 - Barrel boards
 - Formal proclamation
 - Fish food
 - King of comedy
 - Lopez theme
 - College in North Carolina
 - Gudrun's mate
 - Like some cars
 - Work by Keats
 - Writer Yutang

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ERAL ETIONS ARAB
LONE RELIC COCO
BUTTERED POPCORN
ATEST STROKED
OATER TAU
POPULATE INNER
AMOT MASH STALE
RIAP METHANE MILI
TRIBE SALLA NEDM
SANER POPARTS
HEN ESSEN
CHIESES SIEDGE
POTY REQUESTION
ALOT REESE TRON
SEISS UNDER ETNA

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

IT'S A MATTER OF PERCENTAGES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 5 2
♥ K 6
♦ Q 10 5
♣ A J 9 7 4

EAST
♠ Q 8 6 3
♥ 9 4 3
♦ 8 6 4 2
♣ K 10

SOUTH
♠ A J 10
♥ Q J 10
♦ A K J 9
♣ 8 6 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♥
If you empathize with these writers, you have an innate distaste for mathematics. While there are some bridge hands that require detailed calculation to find the best line, by and large you can get by with logic. For example, how would you plan to make three no trump on this hand?

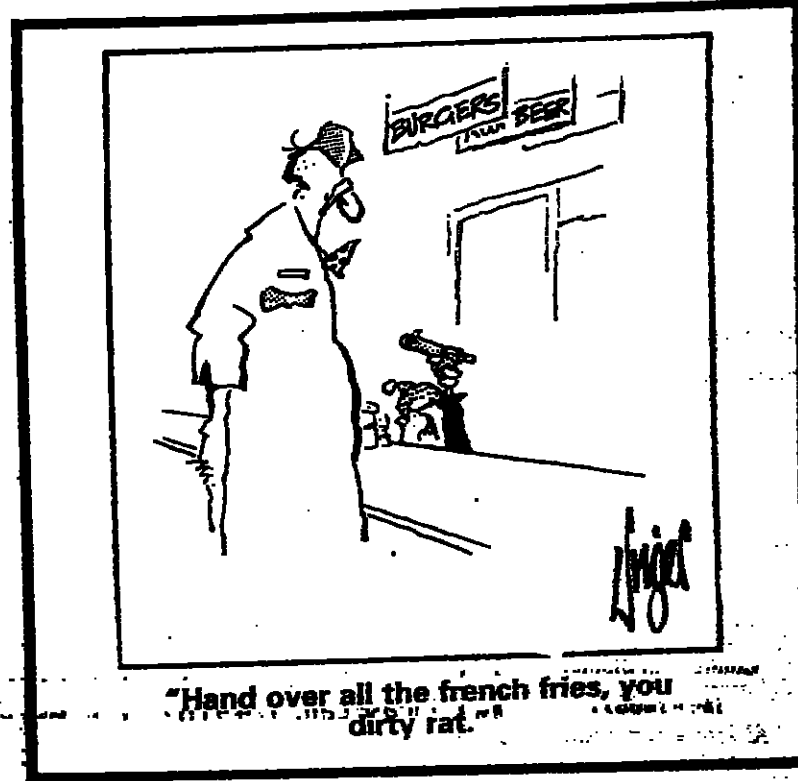
It requires only elementary arithmetic to arrive at the right contract. North adds his 10 points to South's announced minimum of 16, and the total is enough to bid game, with the

five-card club suit as a kicker. After the opening lead of the five of hearts, you can count eight sure tricks. Declarer decided his combined eight-card club suit offered the best shot, so he won the heart in hand and finessed the nine of clubs. When that lost to the ten and a heart came back, West ducked and the contract had no play as the cards lay. As soon as declarer surrendered a trick, the defenders would be able to take three heart tricks to set the hand.

Even if West held the ten of clubs, the contract would not be guaranteed. That defender would have to hold at least one of the high clubs as well for the contract to succeed.

Now look at the spade suit. Suppose declarer were to win the first trick in dummy and immediately finesse in spades. West would take the trick and return a low heart. Declarer would win, cross to the table with a diamond and repeat the spade finesse. Since East holds the other honor, the contract is home.

Let's examine the cases rationally. For the club suit to yield a second trick quickly, declarer must find two cards favorably placed is all that's needed. Enough said.



YOUR SIGN



You will have to take care not to make any mistakes and you must be on the lookout for them. Do not allow your emotions to run away with you. Do not slacken your efforts but do make sure you get enough rest too. Be moderate.



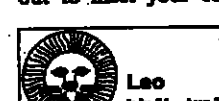
You should not place too much reliance on your intuitive powers. You will feel far more enterprising than you have of late but do not do anything too risky. You should pay a little more attention to your health. Be sincere.



You will have a little more energy but you will need it all to proceed with what you have in mind, so do not dissipate. And you should not give up halfway. Be generous.



Once you have made up your mind you should stick to it unless it turns out that you were definitely wrong. You should make sure you do not break a promise and go all out to meet your commitments.



An offer or proposal should not be taken at its face value. You should have just a little more faith in yourself. A family matter will have to be dealt with without delay. Be tolerant.



You should try to avoid repeating yourself. You are liable to lose sight of your objectives and should make sure you do not. Do all you can to stay on good terms with your colleagues. Be reasonable.



You should keep your wits about you and you must avoid believing what you would like to be actually is. Have a good laugh at yourself. Do not expect to have everything your own way. Be respectful.



You will have the wind in your sails but you will be heading somewhat in the wrong direction. It is not too late to make adjustments and you will be the better for making them. Do not eat and drink more than you know you should. Be sensible.



Lots of doors will be open to you but you must choose carefully which of them to enter. You will be able to find a better way of dealing with a persistent problem, but it will not altogether disappear. Do not claim to know more than you have not got. Be more patient.



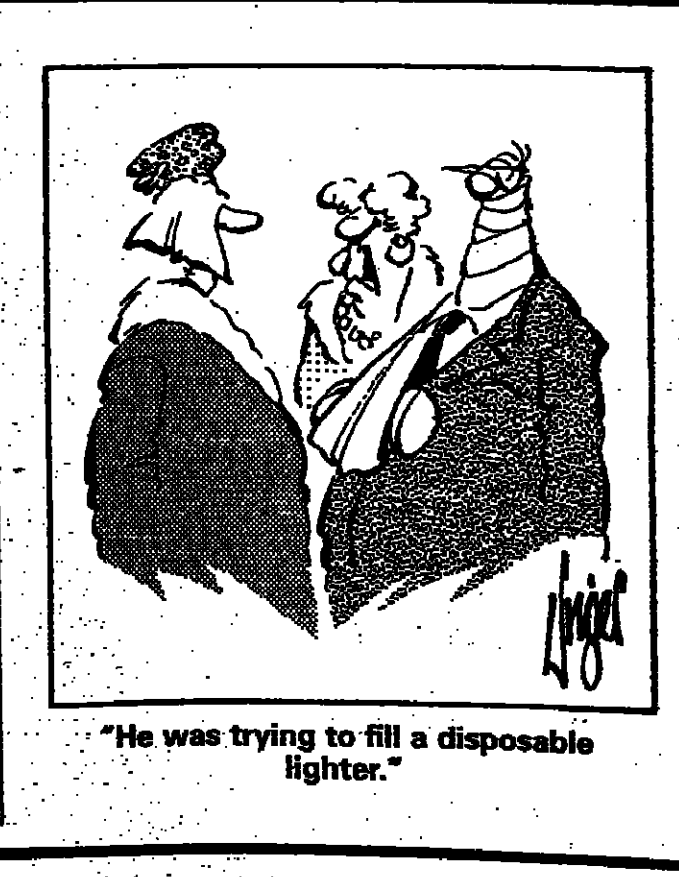
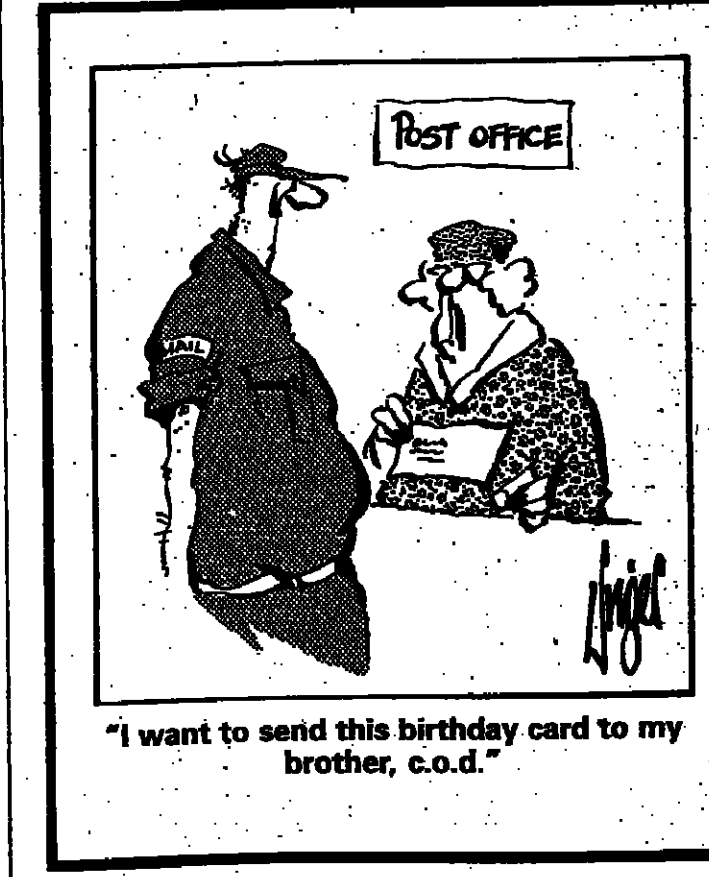
You will have to make a decision but should still not do so on the spur of the moment. Do not do things in a certain way merely because you have always done them that way.



You will now be able to do something you have long wanted to do, but do not exaggerate. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 43. You should not have expect to have everything your own way, or else you will be disappointed. Try not to squander your resources. Be objective.



Limits of speed, safety, prudence etc. must not be exceeded. You should try to overcome certain resentments. If you feel like criticizing, then yourself more than others. Be observant.



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Walker, De Castella, Coe seeking gold

Trio supply nostalgia

AUCKLAND, Jan 23, (Reuters): Three athletes in the twilight of distinguished running careers inject the Commonwealth Games athletics programme with an equal share of glamour and nostalgia.

New Zealand's John Walker, 38, this month, again carries the home country's hopes 14 years after winning gold at the Montreal Olympics.

Australian Rob de Castella, 33 next month, aims for an unprecedented third marathon title against some of the world's classiest long-distance runners.

And 33-year-old Seb Coe, the only man to retain the Olympic 1,500 metres title, makes his far-

well track appearance before concentrating on a career in British politics.

"Realistically, I don't think I'll get gold," Walker said this week. "But I'm after a medal, don't underestimate me."

De Castella said he had put aside a series of nagging injuries which interrupted his running last year.

"I feel I'm in good shape," De Castella said before adding cautiously: "I'm not in the best shape I've ever been in."

Coe, in his one scheduled news conference before the start of the athletics competition on Saturday, said he was treating the

games seriously.

"The thought of five races in five or six days tends to concentrate the mind when you start to drift into nostalgia," he said.

Walker is one of the best-known runners in the world and the knowledgeable European track fans reserve a special cheer for him when he is introduced at major meetings.

He plans another year on the European circuit before retiring to his farm in South Auckland where he keeps both cattle and horses.

Sixteen years ago, his hair fashionably long, Walker chased Filbert Bayi to a world 1,500 metres record at the Christ-

church Commonwealth Games.

Now, his hair unfashionably long, Walker retains his powerful arm and leg action but, inevitably, the years have taken a toll on his speed. Realistically, he will be doing well to make the final.

But Walker insists: "I know it's going to be tough and I may not win. But believe me, the others are going to know I am in the race."

De Castella is also well past his peak years of the early 1980s when he defeated then world record holder Alberto Salazar in Rotterdam before winning the gold medal at the 1983 World Championships.

The tough Australian did not finish at the 1987 World Championships and his 1986 Commonwealth title came in the absence of the boycotting Africans.

Now he faces 1987 world champion Douglas Wakihuri of Kenya, another Kenyan in Ibrahim Hussein, the first African to win the New York marathon, and talented teammate Steve Moneghetti.

By contrast, Coe must be one of the gold medal favourites in the 1,500.

His basic speed has diminished only slightly and, as his victory in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic showed, he is a master at peaking on the day.

Win or lose, Coe is looking forward to his last international appearance.

"I think the middle distance events could make this summer's European championships look like a garden party," he commented.

"It's the Kenyans who added the extra dimension and you only have to look at the results of their trials to see what form they've been in."



John Walker (left) and Sebastian Coe: two of the best runners in the world



Africans may dominate boxing again

AUCKLAND, Jan 23, (Reuters): African boxers could repeat their 1982 gold medal haul if their performances in training are transferred to the ring when Commonwealth Games competition starts on Thursday.

In Brisbane, Africans won gold in the five weights to lightweight, cementing their domination of the lower weights which saw them win the light-flyweight and featherweight titles in every Games since the weights' inception in 1970.

Canada and England took advantage of the African-led boycott in Edinburgh to share the spoils in a rivalry which occasionally threatened to slip into open war between the two camps.

Canada won six golds to England's five with only New Zealand heavyweight Jimmy Peau breaking the two nations' stranglehold.

Predictions by Canada and England they will repeat their 1986 performances are unlikely to come to fruition when the likes of the Kenyans, Ugandans and Zambians take to the ring.

Not much is known about the African boxers except for the two Zambians and Ghanaians who fought in last year's world championships. Zambia's Anthony Mwamba performed creditably to reach the quarter-finals of the welterweight class.

But African nations have greatly impressed boxing officials with their speed and timing at training since their arrival, although the performance of the Kenyan team, traditionally Africa's strongest, is being kept under wraps.

The training gym is divided by three-metre high sheets of plastic.

'Apartheid is Africa's problem'

AUCKLAND, Jan 23, (Reuters): The onus for solving the problem of apartheid in South Africa rested with black African nations, Olympics boss Juan Antonio Samaranch told Commonwealth sports leaders today.

"We know we have a problem with South Africa. This really is an African problem and the solution must come from Africa," the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president said on the eve of the Commonwealth Games.

But Samaranch, who will attend the Games opening ceremony tomorrow, added that the rest of the world must support Africa in its crusade against apartheid.

"Europeans, Americans and the people of Oceania must support Africa in calling for a solution. I think this solution may come very soon," Samaranch said.

He was speaking a day after African nations had ruled out a Commonwealth Games boycott over a rebel England cricket tour of South Africa.

"The world boycott is old fashioned and out of date and I am very happy to see all the countries taking part (in the Games)," Samaranch told the general assembly of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

"The Commonwealth Games will be very successful. It is the first time for a long time you have all the countries belonging to the federation taking part in these Games."

Samaranch was widely credited with being the driving

force in ensuring that the 1988 Seoul Olympics were very virtually boycott-free following political withdrawals from the three previous Olympics.

Samaranch also congratulated Prince Edward, the youngest son of Britain's Queen Elizabeth, on his unanimous election as CGF president.

He told the 25-year-old Prince, who took over the presidency from his father, Prince Philip: "The sports family and the Olympic family are happy and honoured to have you as president."

Earlier, the president of the Hong Kong National Olympic Committee, Arnaldo de Oliveira, was elected chairman of the CGF, the governing body of the Commonwealth Games, replacing Scotland's Peter Healey, who stood down after eight years.

Sales, who defeated Canadian Commonwealth Games Association president Ivor Dent in a secret ballot, will serve until 1994. Three years later Hong Kong will be handed over to China in a move which could result in the British colony's Commonwealth links being severed.

Ben Johnson's last remaining international track record was all but wiped out today when officials agreed to strip the Canadian of his Commonwealth Games mark of 10.07 seconds.

But CGF leaders said they would put off the action for six months while they check with the world governing body for track and field exactly how to implement it.



Juan Samaranch

"The federation is to follow the ruling of the international amateur athletic federation on matters such as the withdrawal of records," Commonwealth Games secretary David Dixon said after the federation's general assembly, held the day before the start of the 57-nation sports festival.

"There was no naming of Johnson but that is the procedure which will be followed. We will now seek to co-ordinate with the IAAF what their position is and will adopt that ourselves."

Dixon said he would be reporting back to the federation's executive board meeting next June once the position had been clarified.



Canada's Alison Sydar trains on the track at the Manukau Velodrome in Auckland in preparation for the Games. (Reuters wirephoto)

Colourful opening planned

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 24, (AP): The haunting call of seashell trumpets and a 2,500 voice Maori choir tomorrow will launch the 14th Commonwealth Games, one of the world's major sporting festivals which brings together Britain and its former colonies.

Prince Andrew, youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II, will open the games in the 35,000-seat Mt Smart Stadium where the track is laid in the crater of an extinct volcano, one of 62 that dot Auckland, a city of 1 million people.

His mother will close the event, which is to be televised to a potential audience of 2 billion people in 30 countries, on Feb 3.

The prince's presence continues a royal tradition which began in 1930.

These days it is simply the Commonwealth Games, reflecting the decline of British power and the independence of its former colonies.

In recent years, Britain has been frequently criticised by many of the 67 members of the Commonwealth Games Federation for its policy towards South Africa.

More than 2,500 athletes from a record 57 countries have arrived for the Games. Some, like the Indian Ocean state of the Maldives, managed to send only one competitor, while Australia sent 331.

While most competitors are on tight budgets, Prince Haji Sufri Bolkiyah, brother of the Sultan of Brunei, drives to the shooting arena in a Rolls Royce. Most competitors in the village share four to a room, but the Prince has a suite in the luxury Regent Hotel.

The Games, featuring 10 sports, are the centrepiece of New Zealand's 150th celebration of the Treaty of Waitangi between the indigenous Polynesian Maori people and European settlers and is regarded as the founding of modern New Zealand.

New Zealand, a country the size of Britain but with a population of just 3.4 million and in economic decline, decided to use the Los Angeles Olympics as a model and run their competition on a commercial basis.

Judo gets recognition

AUCKLAND, Jan 23, (Reuters): Karen Briggs, England's flag-bearer in the Commonwealth Games' opening ceremony tomorrow, will help remind spectators that not all the action will be on the track, at the pool or in the ring.

Athletics and swimming, followed by boxing, are the main Games' sports but there is a generous sprinkling of world and Olympic champions in the other seven disciplines.

Four times world judo champion Briggs said this week she considered her selection to carry the flag tomorrow to be long overdue recognition for her sport.

"I am pleased not only for myself but for the sports as well because it deserved it for such a long time," Briggs said.

"It is really such a difficult and demanding sports and we just

don't get the coverage and publicity it requires. The athletes seem to get most of it and so do the swimmers."

Briggs won her titles in the under-48 kg division and is confident of winning the Commonwealth crown. The England women's team is stacked with talent, including another world champion in Sharon Rendle in the under-52 kg category.

Judo is new to the Games this year while gymnastics will be contested for the first time since Edmonton in 1978.

Canada look set to dominate both the men's and women's gymnastics, with their individual star likely to be Jamaican-born Curtis Hibbert, the first Canadian to win a medal at a world championship. Hibbert finished eighth on the high bar at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Smith trains with crocs

AUCKLAND, Jan 23, (Reuters): Jim Smith swam with crocodiles while training for the Commonwealth Games.

Smith, 35, a Zambian lawmower-maker and farmer, endured his swim on the wild side in a crocodile-infested reservoir near his Lusaka home.

"It's always in the back of your mind when you train. They don't worry me that much, but there's always a first time," he said.

"The crocs are not so much a worry now. Nobody's been taken for a long time. The last time was five or six years ago."

"I've seen them coming towards me and have got out in a hurry. I tend to do all my breathing on one side so I can keep an eye on them."

"Perhaps my style is affected because my head's up all the time looking for the crocs," he joked.

Smith, who is manager, coach and sole competitor in Zambia's Games swimming team, is entered for the 50 and 100 metres.



Johnson takes Suns near club record



Johnson: scored 27 points for Suns

ORLANDO, Florida, Jan 23, (AP): The Phoenix Suns, getting 27 points and 17 assists from Kevin Johnson, won their eighth straight game, moving within a victory of their all-time club record by beating the Orlando Magic 126-103 last night.

Phoenix, 10-1 this month, were seeking their ninth consecutive victory this evening at Miami. The Suns won nine straight in 1972, 1979 and 1989.

Jeff Hornacek scored 26 points and Tom Chambers had 25 points and 12 rebounds for Phoenix, which used spurts of 13-4 and 15-4 to open a 17-point second-quarter lead. The Magic never seriously threatened again.

Orlando's Michael Ansley scored 21 of his career-high 25 points in the second half, but the Magic never got closer than 14 points.

Terry Catledge added 22 points for Orlando, which has allowed an average of 130 points in its last seven losses. Otis Smith added 17 points for the first-year Magic, which has dropped five of its last six games and 21 to 25.

Spurs 123, Bullets 115

Maurice Cheeks scored a season-high 22 points, including four during a decisive 9-0 run in the final period as the San Antonio Spurs won their 16th consecutive home game.

The victory gave the Spurs a 17-1 record at home and moved them into a first-place tie with Utah in the Midwest Division. Washington has lost 16 of its last 17 road games.

David Robinson led San Antonio with 28 points, 16 rebounds and six assists, while Terry Cummings added 25 points and David Wingate a career-high 11 rebounds. San Antonio outscored Washington 37-23.

Rockets 116, Nuggets 104. Mitchell Wiggins scored 13 of his 21 points in a one-sided first quarter as the Houston Rockets won for the ninth straight time at home.

Houston never trailed in the game and led by as many as 16 points three times in the first quarter behind the hot-shooting Wiggins, who tied a career high

with 10 rebounds. The Rockets led 34-20 entering the second period.

The home winning streak is Houston's longest since 1985-86 when the Rockets won a club record 20 straight.

Akeem Olajuwon led the Rockets with 24 points and 14 rebounds. Buck Johnson added 22 points. It was the first time in Johnson's career he has scored 20 or more points in four consecutive games.

Kings 136, Clippers 104. The Kings shot a league-best 64.7 per cent, getting 24 points from Kenny Smith and 22 from Wayman Tisdale. Sacramento's accuracy erased the NBA's best of the season, 64.3 per cent by Detroit in a 121-93 victory over Indiana on Dec 9.

The Kings, whose previous high this season in points was 126, were coming off their worst shooting night — 36.6 per cent in a 94-81 loss Saturday to Utah.

Ken Norman equalled a season high by scoring 35 points for Los Angeles.

Senna to continue in GP series

PARIS, Jan 23, (Reuters): Former world champion Ayrton Senna said in an interview to be published today that he had firm plans to race in this year's Formula One Grand Prix series.

The Brazilian driver told the French sports daily L'Equipe in a lengthy interview he would stay with his McLaren team for at least the next two years despite his problems with the International Motor Sports Federation (Fisa).

Fisa president Jean-Marie Balestre said earlier this month Senna would not be granted a licence to drive in Formula One unless he withdrew allegations that last year's championship was fixed by the sport's officials in favour of his then McLaren teammate Alain Prost.

Senna, interviewed while on a beach holiday in Brazil, refused to discuss his differences with Balestre and would not be drawn into saying whether he would apologise over his allegations.

But he was adamant that he would continue racing. Asked directly whether he would be on the circuit in 1990 and 1991, he replied: "Of course. I am in Formula One. I am with McLaren and Honda."

"I have a world title, and with McLaren I have real chances to win more."

"All I want, as a driver and as a man, is the chance to do my job in the way I think fit and in the way

which inspires me."

Senna, the 1988 world champion, has twice in the past two months been heavily punished by the International Automobile Federation (FIA), the umbrella organisation which oversees Fisa and of which Balestre is also president.

In December he was fined \$100,000 and given a six-month suspended ban for dangerous driving after a crash with Prost in October's Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka where he was disqualified.

After the race he claimed Fisa officials, including Balestre, had manipulated the rules to ensure Prost won the world title.

This month Balestre announced FIA had decided not to grant him his Formula One super-licence, without which he cannot race in Grands Prix, unless he withdrew the allegations by February 15.

In the interview Senna defended his decision to continue the Suzuka race after his crash with Prost. "I am sure I did not disappoint (the Japanese public) in the Japanese Grand Prix," he said. "My fighting spirit, faith, determination, the spirit they love — I think that was the mark which clearly left on the Suzuka Grand Prix."

Senna, who needed to win that race to maintain his challenge to Prost, crossed the finish line first but was then disqualified.

Paralyzed racer keeps on driving

RIVERSIDE, California, Jan 23. (AP) — Off-road racer Evan Evans, paralyzed from the waist down, shares a secret for winning: "Anybody can go fast for a little while, until they break."

Then there are those remarkable people who keep going and winning even after they break.

Ask Evan. The 24-year-old is an expert on broken bones, but not broken spirits.

Being groomed for a career in off-road automobile racing and hoping to follow the example of his father, racing great Walker Evans, Evan saw his life turned upside down last summer.

"Five months ago I hit a ditch I didn't see and woke up on the ground," he said. "I couldn't move anything from my arms down. I kept going in and out of shock. And I was just starting to win, just getting recognised."

These days you can find him tooling around in a wheelchair marked "Quickie." During an interview, he wouldn't sit still, constantly popping wheelies or doing some strengthening exercise.

He talked easily about the accident that claimed the use of his legs. It happened while he was riding his dirt bike near his California home.

"I just thank God I didn't lose my arms, too," he said. "Thanks to my arms and my crew, I can still race and still be just as competitive as ever."

"They claim that I'll never regain use of my legs. I don't enjoy people telling me I can't do things. That's when I try my hardest to prove them wrong. They send people to the Moon now, there's got to be some people who can do something to help me."

He said he laid the groundwork right away, showing his surgeon pictures of what he did for a living.

"I told him I wanted to be the strongest patient he had, so he used extra big, extra long rods (to reinforce his spine) so I can go out and do what I'm doing."

After 4 1/2 months in the hospital, he was itching to race again.

"I checked out of the hospital on a Friday and then Tuesday I was leaving for Baja to race in the Baja 1000," he said. "I had to get a note from my surgeon that it would be OK for me to race."

And race he did — about 70 miles (110 kilometres) of the Baja, he said, 50 on pavement and 20 on dirt, enough so he could get the needed points to win the season championship in a jeep Cherokee for Class 6 production cars. With the help of co-drivers Brian Stewart and Phil Fario, the car also won its class in the Baja.

Cosmos reach semifinals
COSMOS reached the semifinals of the Al Hilal Cup hockey tournament with a 6-4 victory, via a tie-breaker, over Kuwait Independents Gold at the Ahmad Hockey Ground on Friday.

Independents, playing without a goalkeeper for most of the first half, did well to hold the Cosmos scoreless until the interval.

In the second half, Kuwait Independents shot into the lead through a goal by Mario but Cosmos fought back to get the equaliser through Fanchio. The normal and extra time failed to produce any more goals and the game went into a tie-breaker, from which Cosmos emerged victorious. Cosmos will now meet Al Hilal in the semifinals.

In an Al Mulla Mitsubishi League match played at the same ground on the same day, Flying Arrows thrashed Kuwait Independents 5-0. In another match of the same League, Unity held Al Hilal to a goalless draw. Martin was the hero of Flying Arrows' victory with three goals. He also had a hand in the other two goals, scored by Earnest and Tony Lewis.

On Friday, Jan 26, Pak XI meet Cosmos in the Champions Trophy, Kuwait Independent Gold face Starworld in the Al Mulla Cup and Unity take on Flying Arrows in the Al Mulla Cup.

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Wasim takes Man of the Match award Jones helps Aussies draw 2nd Test

ADELAIDE, Australia, Jan 23. (Reuters) — Dean Jones hit his second century of the match as Australia frustrated resurgent Pakistan's attempt to pull off victory in the second cricket Test today.

Jones followed his first innings 116 by making an unbeaten 121 to steer Australia, who needed 304 to win, to 233 for six and a draw on the fifth and final day.

The result enabled Australia to retain their 1-0 series lead, with the third and last Test starting in Sydney on February 3.

Jones joined Bob Simpson and Allan Border as the third Australian to score a hundred in each innings against Pakistan, his 121 not out being his ninth century in 32 Tests.

However, Pakistan all-rounder Wasim Akram won the vote ahead of Jones as Man of the Match for his scores of 52 and 123 and first innings bowling of five for 100.

Wasim, who also took the award when Australia won the first Test in Melbourne by 92 runs last week, played a key role with his captain Imran Khan in Pakistan's compelling comeback on the fourth day.

Pakistan seemed to be heading for defeat when their second innings slumped to 90 for five, only six runs ahead, but Wasim and Imran, with 136, inspired a recovery.

The touring team, who ended the fourth day at 357 for seven, batted for a further 30 minutes in the morning before Imran declared at 387 for nine. Salim Malik made 65 not out despite a

broken thumb.

Salim and Tauseef Ahmed extended their eighth wicket stand to 64 before Tauseef (18) edged a delivery from paceman Carl Rackemann and was caught behind.

Boon, carrying a knee injury, was out to an excellent low catch by Rameez Raja at first slip after left-handed fast bowler Wasim slanted a delivery across the Tasmanian.

Border was unable to get out of the way of a rising ball from paceman Waqar Younus and was caught behind.

Australia, 44 for two at lunch, were steered by a 73-run third wicket stand between Jones and Taylor, who made 59 in two hours before he tried to cut a short delivery outside off stump from Mushtaq and was caught at point.

Taylor has now scored 1,508 runs in Test cricket since making his debut at the end of last January.

Steve Waugh continued his recent erratic form when he went down the wicket to off-spinner Tauseef, was beaten by the spin.

Pakistan wanted six more wickets for victory in the final session, while Australia found the task of scoring a further 147 runs to win beyond them.

Jones and wicketkeeper Ian Healy put on 84 for the fifth wicket, ensuring Australia comfortably saved the match despite Tauseef snapping up two late wickets.



Dean Jones: hits 2nd 100 of match



Wasim Akram: Man of Match

Scoreboard
PAKISTAN first innings 257 (Javed Miandad 52, Wasim Akram 52, Carl Rackemann four for 40)

AUSTRALIA first innings 341 (Dean Jones 116, Wasim Akram five for 100)

PAKISTAN second innings
Shoaib Mohammad c Healy b Hughes 0
Rameez Raja c Waugh b Hughes 2
Salim Younis c M. Taylor b Hughes 1
Ejaz Ahmed c P. Taylor b Hughes 4
Imran Khan b P. Taylor 136
Javed Miandad c P. Taylor b Hughes 21
Wasim Akram b Campbell 123
Salim Malik not out 65
Tauseef Ahmed c Healy b Rackemann 18
Mushtaq Ahmed b P. Taylor 4
Extras (b-4 lb-5 w-1 nb-3) 13
Total (for nine wickets) 387

Fall of wickets 1-0 2-2 3-7 4-22 5-90 6-281 7-316 8-380 9-387

Did not bat Waqar Younus
Bowling: Hughes 32-9-111-5 (w-1 nb-2), Campbell 29-5-83-1, Rackemann 37-11-85-1 (nb-1), P. Taylor 41-5-13-94-2, Border 4-0-5-0

AUSTRALIA second innings
D. Boon c Rameez b Wasim 5
M. Taylor c sub b Mushtaq 59
A. Border c Younis b Waqar 8
D. Jones not out 121
S. Waugh b Tauseef 4
I. Healy c sub b Tauseef 27
P. Taylor c Shoaib b Tauseef 1
M. Hughes not out 2
Extras (lb-6 nb-3) 23
Total (for six wickets) 233
Fall 1-9 2-33 3-106 4-129 5-213 6-229

Bowling: Wasim 11-3-29-1 (nb-1), Waqar 14-4-42-1, Tauseef 31-6-75-3 (nb-1), Mushtaq 25-5-72-1 (nb-1), Shoaib 2-0-12-0

Australia lead 1-0 in the three-Test series
First Test (in Melbourne) — Australia won by 92 runs
Third Test — Sydney, starts February 3

Hirwani shackles President's XI

NEW PLYMOUTH, New Zealand, Jan 23. (Reuters) — Indian leg-spinner Narendra Hirwani made an encouraging start to his bid for a Test cricket recall on the second day of the four-day match against the New Zealand President's XI today.

Hirwani bowled an impeccable spell of 21 overs for 22 runs on a placid pitch as the President's team made 214 for four by the close in reply to India's first innings of 512.

The slower bowler, seeking to regain his Test place after being overlooked for India's recent tour of Pakistan, did not take a wicket but his accuracy seldom strayed and he conceded only two boundaries in his unbroken stint.

When India resumed at 431 for six, pace bowler Jonathan Millmow helped to wrap up the innings by capturing three more wickets to finish with five for 127.

With wicketkeeper Kiran More hitting an unbeaten 45, the Indians maintained the rapid scoring rate, their total runs coming in 472 minutes from 119 overs.

The President's XI were lifted by 54 from Test aspirant Ken Rutherford, who struck the ball with power and good timing to punish the medium pacers with 11 boundaries.

However, he was caught in the gutty of Kapil Dev when looking set for a bigger score.

Scoreboard
INDIA first innings
V. Chandrasekhar c Thomson 92
b Larsen 23
N. Sidhu c White b Thomson 23
S. Manjrekar c Parore 80
b Thomson 159
M. Azharuddin c Bradburn 13
S. Tendulkar c Richardson 13
b Millmow 24
M. Prabhakar c Douglas 24
K. Dev c Rutherford b Millmow 25

INDIA second innings
K. More not out 45
V. Raju c Parore b Millmow 3
V. Ramesh c Snedden b Millmow 18
N. Hirwani c Rutherford 11
b Thomson 19
Extras (b-4 lb-11 nb-4) 19
Total 472

Fall of wickets: 1-77 2-150 3-288 4-298 5-394 6-437 7-432 8-436 9-475
Bowling: Millmow 27-3-127-5, Thomson 29-6-108-4, Rutherford 9-0-29-0, Snedden 12-2-46-0, Larsen 19-6-53-1, Richardson 16-0-61-0, Bradburn 13-1-73-0

PRESIDENT'S XI first innings
K. Wealleans lbw Prabhakar 20
D. White run out 20
K. Rutherford c Manjrekar 54
b Kapil Dev 62
G. Bradburn not out 62
M. Douglas c More b Raju 30
G. Larsen not out 41
Extras (b-6 nb-1) 7
Total (for four wickets) 214
Fall of wickets: 1-2 2-58 3-83 4-150

To bat: S. Thomson, A. Parore, M. Richardson, J. Millmow, M. Snedden
Bowling: Dev 14-4-35-1, Prabhakar 13-2-55-1, Razdan 9-1-51-0, Raju 22-11-45-1, Hirwani 21-10-22-0

Berlin: strong Games candidate
EAST BERLIN, Jan 23. (Reuters) — International Olympic Committee president Juan Antonio Samaranch has raised hopes of staging a joint Games in East and West Berlin, saying the crumbling of the Berlin Wall has made the city a strong contender.

In an interview with the East German newspaper Deutsches Sportecho published yesterday, Samaranch said the historical significance of a Berlin Olympics outweighed the problems of dual administration in a divided city.

"Berlin, which for many years symbolised division in the world, is now turning into a symbol of unity. For this reason I think Berlin is a very strong candidate," he said.

Berlin's two mayors have said they would like to host the games in 2000 or 2004, and East Germany's National Olympic committee has already given its approval to the project.

West German cities have put their Olympic ambitions on hold, hoping the two Berlins can work out a detailed joint bid to present to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) when it meets in September.

"We know Berlin is under the authority of two different National Olympic Committees," Samaranch said in the IOC's clearest public reaction to the games idea since East Germany opened its borders to the West in November.

"But if they can reach agreement, I think the IOC could accept the city's candidature without too much difficulty."

Samaranch said East and West Berlin were far from fully equipped to stage the Games and would have to build suitable facilities.

"But there is plenty of time for that," he said. "The host city for the games in the year 2000 will be chosen in 1993. There are three years until then."

Berlin last hosted the Olympics in 1936, when the occasion was used as a propaganda platform for the Nazis who then ruled a united Germany with Berlin as its capital.

Samaranch was keen to dismiss parallels with the past. "We live in the 1990s and the world has changed a lot," he said.

The idea of a Games in divided Berlin was first mooted in 1987 by then US President Ronald Reagan in a speech at the Berlin Wall.

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two different National Olympic Committees," Samaranch said in the IOC's clearest public reaction to the games idea since East Germany opened its borders to the West in November.

"But if they can reach agreement, I think the IOC could accept the city's candidature without too much difficulty."

Samaranch said East and West Berlin were far from fully equipped to stage the Games and would have to build suitable facilities.

"But there is plenty of time for that," he said. "The host city for the games in the year 2000 will be chosen in 1993. There are three years until then."

Berlin last hosted the Olympics in 1936, when the occasion was used as a propaganda platform for the Nazis who then ruled a united Germany with Berlin as its capital.

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Van Basten to stay at Milan

DUTCH international striker Marco van Basten, whose dazzling form for world club champions AC Milan has made him the top scorer in Italy this season, is likely to calm his club's nerves by signing for a further three years.

Milan officials said the club and Van Basten's lawyers were expected to meet to finalise a three-year contract for 12 billion lire (\$9.3 million), with an option for 1994.

"What a relief he's staying with us until 1993," said club president and media magnate Silvio Berlusconi.

"Imagine the torture every goal he scored would have been for us, knowing he would leave at the end of season."

The 26-year-old European Footballer of the Year scored twice on Sunday as Milan beat Udinese 2-0 to stay just three points behind League leaders Napoli with a match in hand.

The Dutch Van Basten's tally to 12 goals in 13 domestic League games so far this season — despite a cartilage operation on his knee which sidelined him earlier in the season.

While Diego Maradona celebrated Napoli's 2-0 win at bottom-of-the-League Verona, his younger brother Hugo was busily denouncing his Spanish employers at Rayo Vallecano, whose coach walked out on the last-placed club last week.

"They have become too small for me. They have no money to build an ambitious team. I'm leaving at the end of the season," he said, adding that he did not know whether to stay in Spain or head for Italy to join the Argentine World Cup captain.

"It depends on what offers I get," he said.

Rayo, the poor member of Madrid First Division trio led by Atletico and Real, are in deep trouble after coach Felix Bardenas "Felines", resigned last week because the club refused to sack forward Jose Botella for lack of discipline.

Bardenas' deputy Manolo Penalba was standing in.

Tenerife, one place above Rayo in the standings, sacked coach Vicente Miera on Monday after their dismal 2-1 home defeat to Sevilla on Sunday. Miera had to be protected by police after the match to prevent angry fans from getting at him.

"We are doing quite well, but we are not winning. This is difficult to understand, and, of course, to explain," he said on his departure. He was replaced for the time being by Cipriano Gonzalez, coach of Tenerife's amateur team.

In the Netherlands, champions PSV Eindhoven apparently resolved a rift with striker Wim Kieft, who had sought to leave the club because he was unhappy at being overshadowed by Romario of Brazil and Flemming Poven of Denmark.

The problem had reportedly affected team morale and was considered partly responsible for PSV's unimpressive 1-1 draw against lowly Den Bosch on Sunday.

Kieft, who has a contract until 1991, is now likely to stay with PSV until at least the end of the season.

Players and managers met on Monday night to discuss the issue, which seems to have been the result of a misunderstanding, with Kieft saying a players' agent told him PSV was unhappy with him and wanted to get rid of him.

PSV denied that was ever the case.

We have reached an understanding," PSV manager Kees Ploegmans said after the meeting. "We are settled until the end of the season. Then we will discuss the situation further...as far as I am concerned the matter is settled."

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Borg sues

STOCKHOLM, Jan 23, (Reuters): Former tennis ace Bjorn Borg opened a four million crown (\$645,000) libel suit yesterday against a Swedish magazine which printed allegations by a former girlfriend that he was hooked on cocaine.

Death threat

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 23, (Reuters): Gerry Armstrong, the umpire who disqualified John McEnroe from the Australian Open tennis championships on Sunday has been threatened with death, tournament organisers said today.

Spanish team

BARCELONA, Spain, Jan 23, (Reuters): Brothers Emilio and Javier Sanchez are to head Spain's Davis Cup team against Austria in their world group first round contest next week despite a row over training.

Cash overlooked

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 23, (Reuters): Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash has been left out of the Australian Davis Cup team to play France in Perth from February 2-4.

Edberg out

STOCKHOLM, Jan 23, (Reuters): World number three Stefan Edberg has been dropped at his own request from Sweden's Davis Cup team for a first round match against Italy next month, non-playing captain Jonte Sjogren said today.

John McEnroe

LOS ANGELES, Jan 23, (AP): John McEnroe, the first player kicked out of the Australian Open for misconduct in its 85-year history, returned home yesterday and verbally assaulted an Associated Press photographer on arrival at Los Angeles International Airport.

Everton player

STOCKHOLM, Jan 23, (Reuters): Swedish soccer international Stefan Rehn, disappointed over his failure to win a place in Everton's first team, is leaving the English club for Sweden's IFK Gothenburg.

Spanish games

MADRID, Jan 23, (Reuters): The Madrid government's sporting supremo has sided with the Spanish Football Federation (FEF) in an argument over who should pay a record \$990,000 fine for broadcasting Spanish League games abroad. Rafael Cortes Elvira, the government's director-general for sports, said last night: "Under no circumstances can the FEF be responsible... we now have to look for who is responsible."

Al Athla Trophy

KIFCO will meet Evergreen in the final of the Al Athla Trophy Cricket tournament on Friday January 26, 1990 at the NC Ground. The match, organised by the Kuwait Cricket League, will commence at 9.00 am and will be a 45-over full day match. Tariq Al Nakib, managing director of Al Athla Travel Agency, will be the chief guest and he will give away the prizes.

RESULTS of the Dunhill Bridge

Tournament (17th week) held at the Messilah Beach Hotel on Monday: N/S

1. Ravi & Merchant

2. Walikiewicz & Wardecki

3. Bianca & Tawil

E/W

1. Khrisnaswamy & Vasudevan

2. Dr Adel & Sherin

3. Sultan Ali & Salman Ali

The prize distribution ceremony for the Dunhill tournament will be held next Monday at 7.30 pm at the Messilah Beach Hotel and will be followed by a duplicate bridge game.

Fernandez beats Garrison Graf equals own record

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 23, (Reuters): World number one Steffi Graf equalled a personal milestone as she defied fierce heat and dogged American Patty Fendick to reach the semifinals of the Australian Open tennis championships today.

Graf, with the surface temperature on centre court reaching 59 degrees Celsius (138.2 Fahrenheit), won 6-3 7-5 to record her 46th consecutive victory, equalling her previous best winning streak set in 1988.

It was Graf's 19th successive victory without dropping a set at the Australian Open since 1988, but she still trails absent world number two Martina Navratilova's all-time record for consecutive wins. American Navratilova went 74 matches without a defeat in 1984.

The other women's quarter-final matches saw ninth seed Mary Joe Fernandez ruin fellow American Zina Garrison's hopes of reaching a first Grand Slam final. Fernandez staged a brave comeback from 5-3 down in the final set to beat the third seed 1-6 6-2-6-6.

Graf narrowly avoided breaking her sequence when she saved a set point at 5-2 in the second set, but fought back as Fendick faltered under pressure.

"It was no fun. It went through my mind that I've never dropped a set here," she said after the game. "I was thinking about it quite a lot."

Fendick, who matched the defending champion's power and accuracy in the second set, felt later that Graf was not as dominant as she has been on the rebound ace surface.



Graf in action against Fendick. (Reuters wirephoto)

"She's not as sharp as she has been," said Fendick. "I played exactly as I intended to play her and felt I played pretty well. But I'm kind of pissed (off) about being number 46."

Bertaudiere in stable condition Auriol takes lead in rally

MONTE CARLO, Jan 23, (Reuters): The French driver of the car which plunged 200 metres down a ravine in the Monte Carlo Rally yesterday, killing the co-driver, was in a stable condition today, organisers said.

Jean-Claude Bertaudiere, 37, received emergency treatment in a Montpellier hospital. Organisers say he has serious spine injuries and is partially paralysed.

His co-driver Francis Malaussene, 47, also French, died after the Renault left the road at a sharp bend.

The accident yesterday overshadowed the enthralling duel between race leaders Didier Auriol and Carlos Sainz.

After 12 of the 28 special timed sections, with the rally moving from Aubenas to Gap, Frenchman Auriol in a Lancia led the Spanish Toyota driver by 16 seconds.

Bertaudiere's car left the road at a sharp bend during the first of the day's six specials before plunging 200 metres down a ravine. Malaussene was killed outright and Bertaudiere taken to a Montpellier hospital by helicopter.

Last year two Swedish spectators were killed when a Lancia

ploughed off course.

Auriol held an overnight lead of 14 seconds but lost it all in the first special as the tenacious Sainz turned on the pressure. After five of the six timed sections of the day, the two were still level but Auriol once more got his nose in front on the final part of the course.

Italy's Massimo Biasion, world champion and last year's Monte Carlo winner, moved up into third place but his Lancia is still two minutes down on Auriol's.

By contrast, another former rally winner and Lancia driver, Bruno Saby of France, fell right out of contention. The 1988 rally winner ran into a block of concrete on the fourth special and lost so much time he dropped from third to 10th overall, almost 12 minutes behind the leader.

Paris-Dakar winner Ari Vatanen of Finland had a miserable day as well, falling to

eight place almost eight minutes off the lead.

Standings

Leading standings yesterday after 12 special timed sections in the Monte Carlo rally.

1. Didier Auriol (France) Lancia two hours 40 minutes 26 seconds time penalties
2. Carlos Sainz (Spain) Toyota 16 seconds behind
3. Massimo Biasion (Italy) Lancia 2:00
4. Dario Cerrato (Italy) Lancia 3:00
5. Armin Schwartz (West Germany) Toyota 4:52
6. Timo Salonen (Finland) Mazda 7:08
7. Hannu Mikkola (Finland) Mazda 7:08
8. Ari Vatanen (Finland) Mitsubishi 7:46
9. Francois Delecour (France) Peugeot 9:28
10. Bruno Saby (France) Lancia 11:44

After the injury to number two seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina on Saturday, Garrison knew she had a great chance of reaching the final and looked well on her way to the last four when she took the first set 6-1 against Fernandez in 31 minutes.

But the 18-year-old Fernandez, ranked eleventh in the world, kept her cool as the temperature soared, and took the second set 6-2 to put the pressure back on her opponent.

Garrison responded by racing into a 5-3 lead and twice found herself serving for the match before Fernandez, more solid on the crucial points, broke her opponent's serve for the fourth time in the set to reach only her second Grand Slam semifinal.

Fourth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia won through to a rematch in Thursday's semifinals with Graf, who beat her in last year's final.

"I have nothing to lose. I'm moving much better than last year," said Sukova, after beating Bulgaria's Katerina Maleeva 6-4 6-3.

Sukova, who is receiving daily phone advice from home from her doctor boyfriend, dominated Maleeva in an unexciting quarter final with both rooted to the baseline.

Sukova was 4-1 down in the first set but won the next five games. "I felt I was always in control," she said.

In the second set Maleeva pulled back from 3-1 down to 3-3, but Sukova put more accuracy into her cross-court shots, wrapping up the match in just under one hour.

Gower to join Hampshire

LONDON, Jan 23, (Reuters): Former England cricket captain David Gower is to join Hampshire after announcing his decision to leave Leicestershire today.

Gower told Leicestershire chief executive Mike Turner he had decided to quit the county and later said he would be seeing Hampshire officials tomorrow when he expected to complete the formalities and sign a contract.

Gower, sacked as England skipper at the end of last season and then overlooked for the forth-coming tour of West Indies, said: "It has not been an easy decision and I have spent three months deliberating about my future."

"I'm sad in many ways to be leaving Leicestershire because I have had a very happy 15 years with them. But I felt I needed a fresh start and a new challenge."

"That meant pastures new and Hampshire fitted the bill."

Hotel staff refuse to serve rebels

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 23, (Reuters): The entire black staff of the Johannesburg hotel where Mike Gating and his rebel cricketers are staying protested against the English team's presence today and said they would refuse to serve them.

About 300 cooks, cleaners and security guards, marched around the plush hotel foyer chanting anti-Gating slogans before staging a sit-down in the shopping mall.

Many of them carried placards saying "Gating and Co get out," "No service for rebels" and "No food for puppets".

None of the rebel team, here on a seven-week boycott breaking tour of the apartheid republic, were in the hotel at the time of the protest which ended after an hour when hotel management agreed to meet union leaders on the issue.

All the protesters are members of



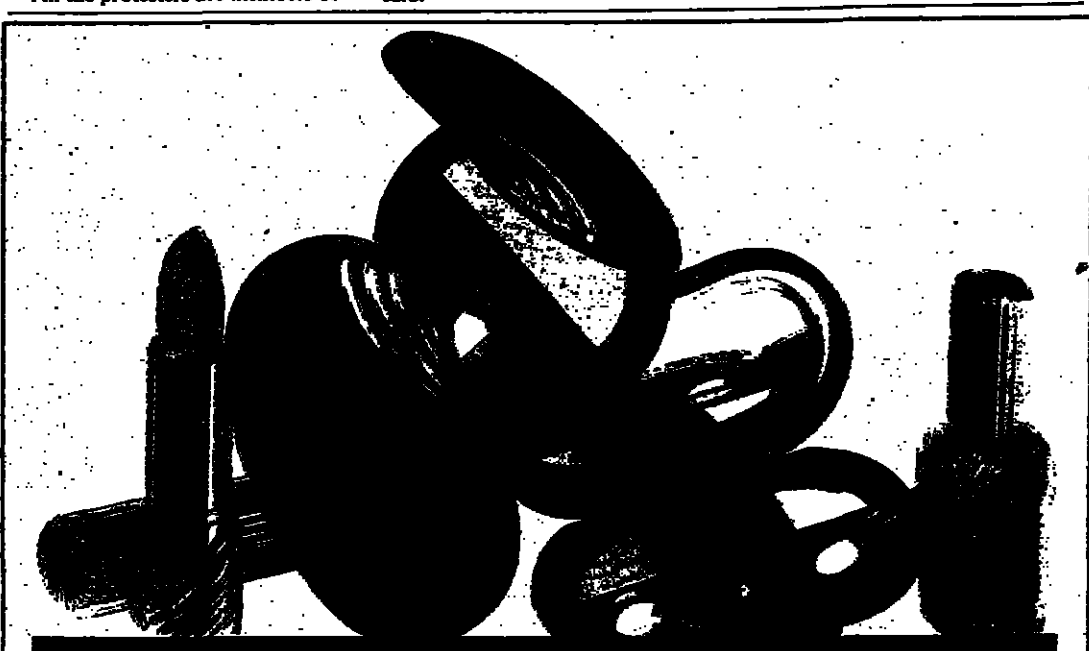
The hotel staff protest in front of the hotel. (Reuters wirephoto)

the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union. A union official said workers at other hotels around the country would also refuse to serve the players.

"The same will happen in other hotels where they are booked. We are not prepared to serve them," union second vice-president Chris Molatzi said.

Gating, who was at a practice session with the rest of the squad at the time, was reluctant to comment on the protest or the threat.

"Let's see if it happens. I don't want to make any provocative statements," he said. Police did not intervene during the demonstration and white staff continued working.



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